The Buck Family in Athens County, Ohio

The story of how our pioneer Buck ancestors came to Athens County during the early decades of Ohio's statehood.

How the Bucks lived as Athens County farmers in the mid nineteenth century.

And a post script about the Bucks who remained in Athens County in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Buck's Lake Farm, Garden, Ohio, photographed June 3, 2023. This is the land Matthew and Magdalene Buck settled in 1816, where they built their grist mill, farmed, and raised a family. The property is now owned by descendants of Matthew and Magdalene's son, John Buck.

Introduction

This project first appeared as a powerpoint presentation I made for a family reunion in Athens County on June 3rd and 4th, 2023—hence the horizontal format. Because I could not access some of the material until the day before the reunion, the story I originally told was not as detailed as I had hoped. This document is a revision of that original presentation, incorporating additional information.

Compiling and organizing the material was a long process, but it was rewarding and often fun. The outcome is that I feel closer to the American pioneer experience and to my Ohio roots. I hope I have produced something that other Buck descendants will enjoy reading.

Despite my best efforts, there are undoubtedly errors, for which I apologize. I tried to provide enough detail about the sources for interested readers to locate them. Much of the information came from the internet and from a visit to the Genealogy Center and Library at the Southeast Ohio History Center in Athens. Many thanks to John Cunningham at the History Center for taking several hours on May 31st and June 2nd, 2023, to go through the probate packets of Benjamin and Sylvester Buck's heirs, describing the contents as I photographed them.

Two invaluable resources were *Isaac Buck of Scituate, Plymouth Colony, and Some of His Descendants, Generations I-VI,* 1998, by Byron Buck and the *Matthew Buck Record*, 1959, by Waldo Buck. I used photographs from the collections of Ralph Edson Hawk (1936-2022) and Rebecca Buck. Most of the photographs that appear without attribution are mine.

Christina Buck Armstrong

March 2024, revised April 2025

The gravestones of Matthew and Magdalene Buck in Carthage Cemetery, Athens County, Ohio, photographed May 28, 2017.

This family history is dedicated to my genealogy mentors:

Byron Richard Buck (1920-2003), my father,

and Rebecca Buck, my distant cousin and close friend

Byron[10] (Carl[9], George[8], Abram[7], Matthew[6]) Buck is the family historian responsible for connecting our Athens County Bucks to the Revolutionary War veteran Thomas[7] Buck and the four generations of Bucks preceding Thomas.[1]

In the late 1960s and continuing for about three decades, Byron researched and wrote a genealogy of our immigrant ancestor Isaac[1] Buck and the five generations that followed him. On the right is his photograph, taken in 1973 with wife Justine (right) and daughters Kathleen (left) and Cecily, visiting the grave of Jesse Buck and his wife Sarah at Mount Cemetery, Chesterfield, MA. During the 1970s, whenever a family vacation took the Bucks to New England or Ohio, there were stops at town halls, libraries, and cemeteries where Byron spent time researching the Bucks.

Rebecca (James[10], Isaac Newton[9], Charles Edgar[8], Abram[7], Matthew[6]) Buck is the researcher who identified Magdalene Buck as a Decker, thereby connecting Matthew and Magdalene's descendants to the Dutch community in New York, going all the way back to the first European settlers on Manhattan Island.

I met Rebecca on line some thirteen or fourteen years after my father's death. She had collaborated with my father when he was working on his genealogy of Isaac. During a trip I made to the east coast, she invited me to join her in the Minisink area of New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania where Magdalene Decker Buck was born and her mother's family lived for several generations before her birth. That was my introduction to the fun of exploring places my ancestors lived centuries before I was born. Since then, Rebecca and I have taken five research trips together, including two to Athens County where we organized Buck reunions in addition to spending time on family research. On the left is her photograph, taken in the Scituate, Rhode Island records office during a New England research trip we took together in July 2022.

1. Generation numbers added as recommended in Curran, Crane, and Wray's, *Numbering Your Genealogy* (Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2008), 6.

The origins of our Buck line in North America…

The focus of this family history is the Bucks' experience in Ohio, but I will begin with a brief description of the route they took to get there. The information on this page and the next three was taken from Byron Buck's genealogy, *Isaac Buck of Scituate, Plymouth Colony, and Some of His Descendants, Generations I-VI,* 1998.

The immigrant ancestor of our Buck line was Isaac Buck. The date of his arrival on this continent is unknown, but records indicate that he was in Scituate, Plymouth Colony, by 1643.

In 1677, the year of the map on the left, our immigrant ancestor Isaac[1] Buck had been living in Scituate for at least 34 years. His son Benjamin[2] of our Buck line, born in Scituate, was about 13 years old that year.

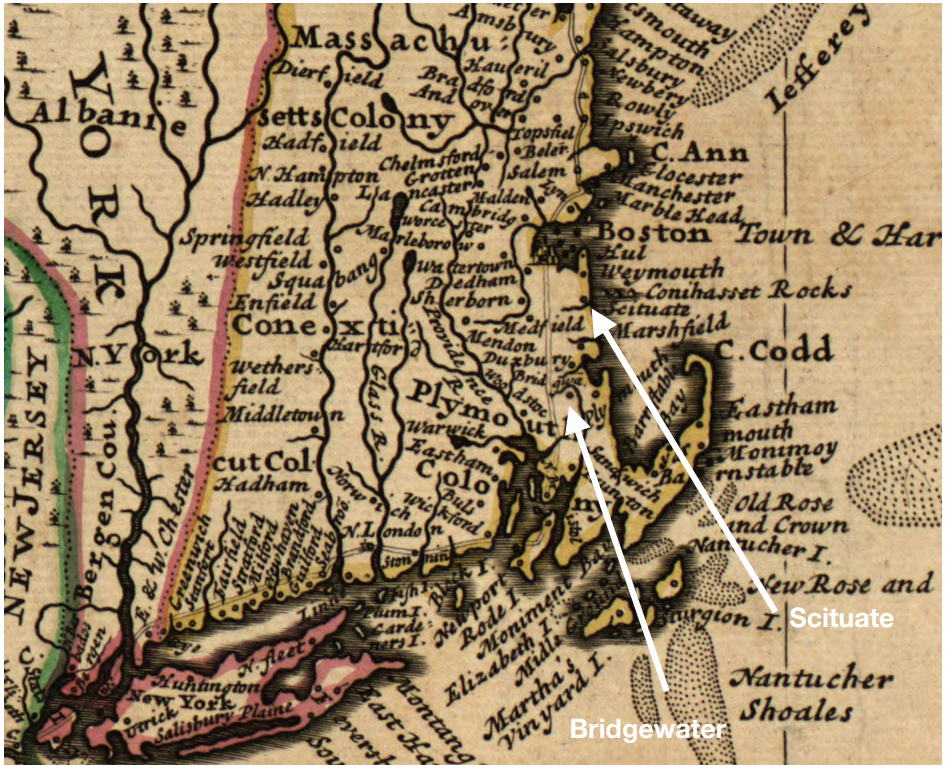
Benjamin's son, our ancestor Thomas[3] Buck, was born in Scituate about 1685.

left: "This is a copy of the first map engraved in New England. Taken from one in Hubbard's Narrative of the troubles with the Indians in New England*, supposed to have been published in 1677." Library of Congress.*

left: "A new and exact map of the dominions of the King of Great Britain on ye continent of North America, containing Newfoundland, New Scotland, New England, New York, New Jersey, Pensilvania, Maryland, Virginia and Carolina" Herman Moll, 1715. Library of Congress.

The map on this page shows the Plymouth Colony settlements of Scituate, where Benjamin[2] and Thomas[3] Buck were born, and Bridgewater. Thomas[3] moved to Bridgewater, Plymouth Colony, where he married Elizabeth Haward (a descendant of Mayflower passenger Francis Cooke) on December 18, 1712. Thomas[3] and Elizabeth's son, John[4] of our Buck line, was born in Bridgewater on April 29, 1721.

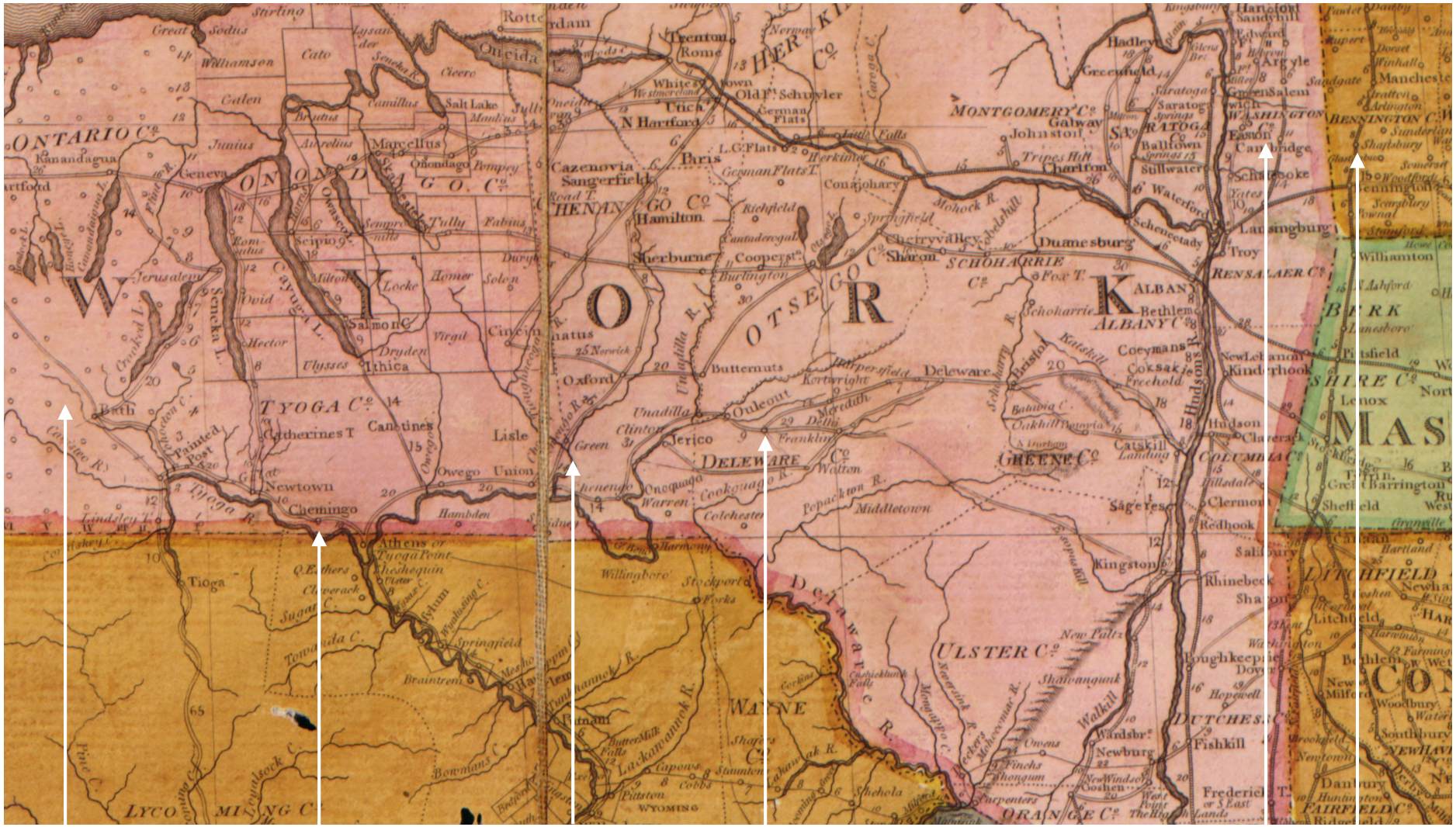
John[4] Buck married Mary Ames in Bridgewater, Plymouth Colony on December 25, 1739.



John[4] and Mary Buck lived or owned property in Brockton, Attleboro, Killingly and Scituate, Rhode Island (where our ancestor Thomas[5] Buck, their son, was born) before they moved to Shaftsbury in about 1765. At the time, Shaftsbury was a frontier town in the Hampshire grants, in an area which would eventually become the state of Vermont. Thomas[5] Buck served in the American Revolution, enlisting at the age of 15. He was married in Shaftsbury around 1779 (wife's name unknown). He and his wife had at least four children in Shaftsbury: Matthew[6], Mary[6], Sylvester[6] and Olive[6].

Library of Congress

Sometime after 1792 and before 1797, Thomas[5] Buck and his family left Vermont and moved to New York State. By 1800 they had arrived in Franklin, Delaware County and two more sons had been born: John[6] and William[6].



Map of United States, 1804 cropped. Library of Congress.

1820 census

Thomas[5] Buck's family in Howard, Steuben County

(Howard was not formed as a town until 1812, so it does not appear on this 1804 map. Steuben County was split off from Ontario County in 1796, but the map-maker failed to indicate that on his map.)

1810 census

Matthew[6] Buck's family in Chemung, Tioga County

1810 census

Thomas[5] Buck's family in Green, Chenango County

1800 census

Thomas[5] Buck's family in Franklin, Delaware County. (William[6] Buck was born here.)

1797

John[6] Buck was born in Washington County

Shaftsbury, Vermont

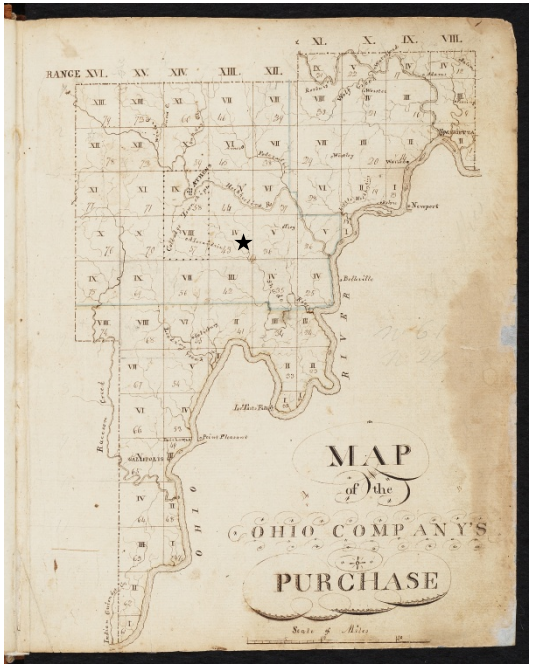
As indicated on the previous page, in 1810 Thomas's son Matthew lived in Chemung, New York with his family: wife Magdalene Decker Buck and son Abram Thomas[7]. Their second son, James[7], was born June 20, 1812. Two days later, Matthew "kissed Dalene his wife goodbye and went to the War of 1812. He came all through and without a scratch." (As described in a 1955 letter from Ernest[9] Buck to Lowell[10] Buck, in which Ernest tells of family history he learned from his father Martin Van Buren[8] Buck and his uncle Matthew[8] Buck.)

Two more children were born to Matthew and Magdalene before they left New York: Benjamin[7] and Elizabeth[7]. We do not know why they left New York or why they chose Athens County as their destination, but we know from Waldo Buck's *Matthew Buck Record* that they they made the trip in 1816.

It was common in the early 19th century for several pioneer families to travel together to unsettled or newly-settled lands so that they could assist each other with the arduous tasks of clearing land and building homes, and it is likely the Bucks made this trip in tandem with other families. According to an entry concerning the Secoy family in an Athens County history published in 1987, the Bucks traveled to Ohio with the Secoy, Carleton, Creasy, Dinsmoor and Tubbs families. An examination of the census records suggests that members of Magdalene Decker Buck's family may have gone from New York to Athens County near or at the same time.

How they made the journey to Ohio is a matter for speculation, but it's likely that much of the journey was made on the Allegheny, Ohio, and Hocking Rivers. (See map at right.) There was no road system during the early decades of our country's existence and not much of the land had been cleared. Whenever possible, pioneers would make the trip by water. They built large rafts or barges and covered them with as many of their possessions as possible, sometimes including animals, and then traveled by river to their new homes. The lumber used for the raft would become material for building their new homes.

Allegheny River watershed. Selected locations have been added to the original image. Kmusser, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.5.



Marietta College Legacy Library website

Matthew and Magdalene arrived in Athens County less than 20 years after the Ohio Company platted the township that would become Lodi and put the sections up for sale. The location of their land is marked with a star on the map, left. The original deed to their property has not been found, so we do not know whether Matthew purchased the land from the original proprietor or from another early pioneer. As I understand it, the "original proprietors" were investors who had purchased shares in the development of the Ohio Valley and were assigned sections of the land.

Because Matthew and his sister Mary were in Athens County before 1830, their descendants qualify as members of First Families of Athens County. (The distinctions are piling up! Thomas[3] Buck's marriage to the second great-granddaughter of Francis Cooke makes us potential members of The Mayflower Society. Thomas[5] Buck's service during the Revolutionary War allows us to claim we are Sons/Daughters of the American Revolution. And now, descendants of Matthew Buck and Mary Buck Saunders have still another honor. But even though many of us are confident of our rightful connection to all three of these organizations, to date we only have the required records to become members of one: First Families of Athens County.)

Waldo's *Matthew Buck Record* provides a charming story about how Matthew and Magdalene—who went by Dalene—built their mill on Shade Creek.

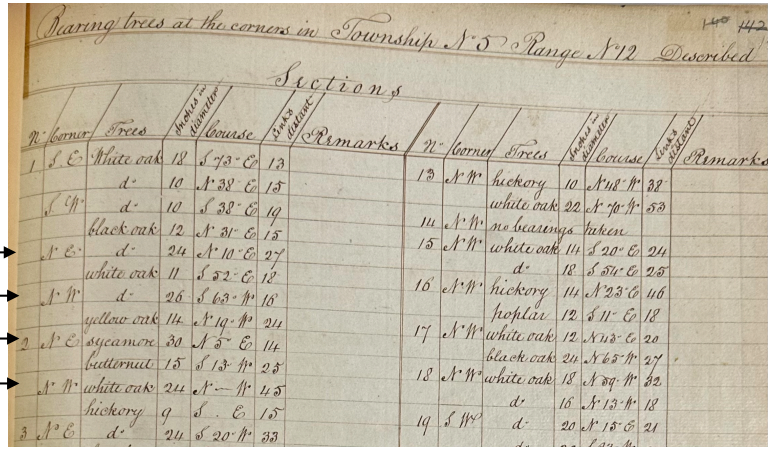
Matthew and Magdalene came to Ohio from New York in 1816, and settled at Garden, Ohio, Lodi Twp., Athens Co., Ohio, where they built a grist mill on Shade Creek. Some of the dam is still there. When they were ready to raise the frame for the mill, they discovered that the timbers were not framed correctly. They framed it over and raised it that night, and because of this, they composed the following verse;

"Matthew's mill, Dalene's delight,
Framed in the daytime, and raised in the night."

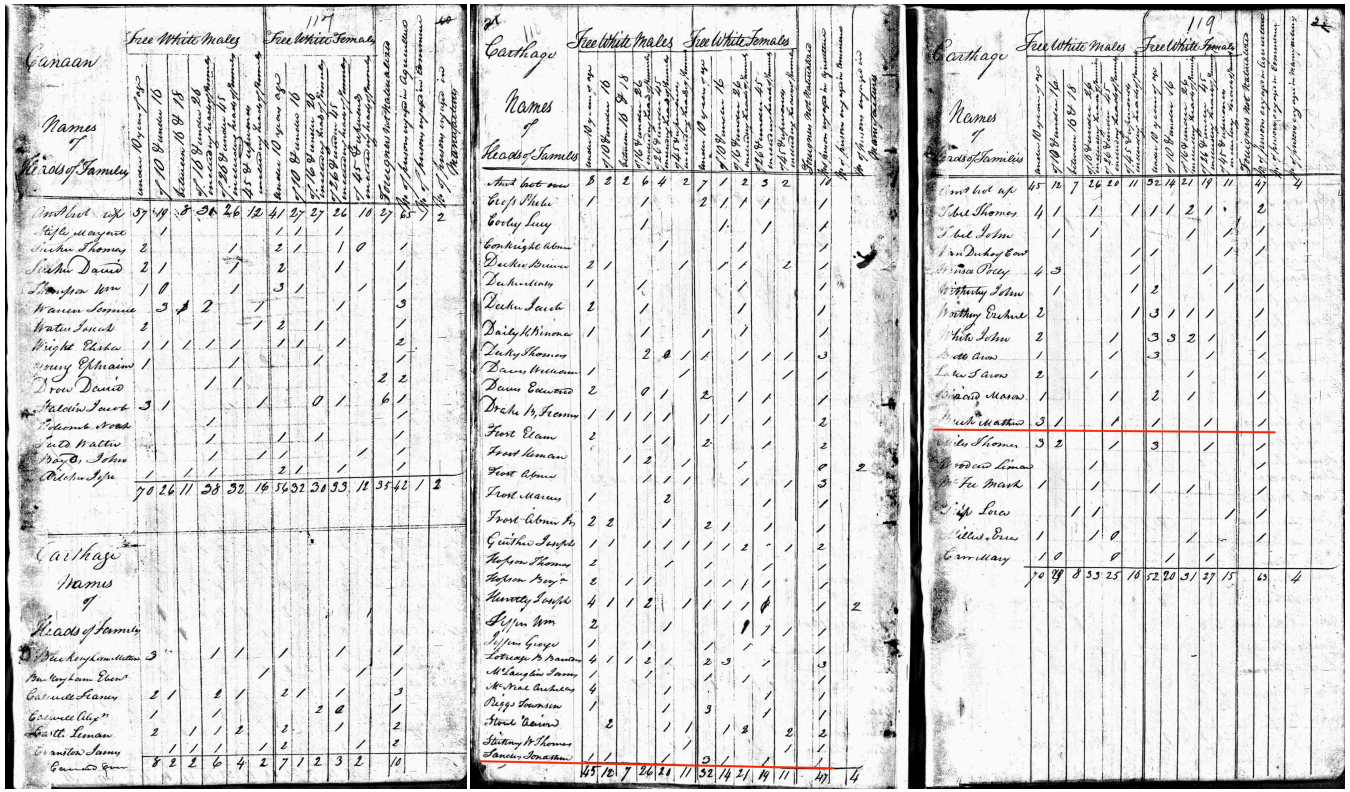
Waldo also provides a description of the properties in New York, Ohio and Missouri that were settled by our line of Bucks. He quotes Matthew[8] (James[7], Matthew[6]) Buck in the passage below:

The Buck settlement, near Bath, New York, their holdings in Athens Co., Ohio, and the place in Missouri are very similar. Rolling farm land originally covered in all three places with oaks, elms, maples, black walnut, etc.; forests which had to be cleared before planting the principal crop (usually corn and timothy hay)

A section of a page from the original land survey shows that the corners of the properties were identified by their proximities to “bearing trees” when the land was first platted. Matthew’s land was section 2 of township 5, range 12. The southern corners of his property were the same as the northern corners of section 1. If I understand the chart correctly, the northeast corner was identified by its distances from a sycamore tree and a butternut tree and the northwest corner by its distances from a white oak and a hickory.



Matthew’s sister, Mary Buck Saunders, came to Athens County from New York with her husband and children in 1818. Matthew’s and Mary’s families are listed among the 52 families living in Carthage in the 1820 census. Although Matthew’s property is now part of Lodi township, when he first arrived in Athens County the land was part of Troy, then in 1819 designated part of Carthage, and in 1826 Lodi.



Fourth Census of the United States, 1820; Census Place: Carthage, Athens, Ohio; Pages: 117-119 (ancestry website: accessed 24 March, 2025)

When they arrived, their land was deeply forested. The woods were full of deer, raccoons, possums and squirrels, animals that formed an important part of the pioneers' diet. There were also bears, panthers and wolves. The settlers had to watch out for these animals and protect themselves and their livestock. Early in the county's history there were $3 bounties for wolf scalps to reward the settlers who protected the community.

right: "Buck Home in Guysville," undated photograph from the collection of Rebecca Buck.

Our ancestors used handmade tools to clear the forests for space to plant crops and lumber to build log cabins to live in. The image above provides a vivid contrast to how the land must have looked when they first arrived; one can imagine that it took years of hard work for a family to transform a dense forest into the open space shown above.

These photographs were taken many decades after Matthew and Magdalene arrived in Ohio. It is unlikely either of the buildings shown were built by Matthew, but they give us an idea of how primitive the original structures must have been. They were truly log cabins, and apparently some of them were used into the first two decades of the 20th century.

left: "Dow Buck & family at home." Judging by the appearance of Leona Buck, who was born in 1899, this photograph was probably taken around 1906-08. From the collection of Ralph Edson Hawk.

Other than Waldo's story about the grist mill, we do not have much information about the lives of the first Bucks in Ohio. However their lives were very likely similar to those of their neighbors. A summary of pioneer life in the Ohio Valley follows.

> In 1820, life for a pioneer farming family in the Ohio Valley was a rugged and challenging existence, yet filled with the promise of new opportunities. These families were among the early settlers who ventured westward in search of fertile land and a chance to build a better future for themselves and their descendants.
>
> The family likely lived in a modest log cabin, which they had constructed themselves from materials sourced from the surrounding wilderness. The cabin served as their home, sheltering them from the harsh elements of the Ohio Valley's climate. Inside, the furnishings would have been simple—a rough-hewn table and chairs, perhaps a bed made of straw or animal hides, and a fireplace for cooking and warmth.
>
> From dawn till dusk, the family toiled tirelessly to carve out a livelihood from the land. The father would have been the primary farmer, clearing the dense forest to make way for fields of crops such as corn, wheat, and potatoes. He would have relied on primitive tools like the axe, hoe, and plow, often fashioned by hand from iron or wood.
>
> Meanwhile, the mother played a vital role in supporting the family's agricultural endeavors. She tended to a kitchen garden near the cabin, growing vegetables and herbs to supplement their diet. Additionally, she would have been responsible for cooking meals over an open fire, preserving food for the winter months, and caring for the family's livestock, which might have included chickens, pigs, and perhaps a cow or two.
>
> Life on the frontier was not without its hardships. Disease, crop failures, and attacks by wild animals were constant threats. The nearest settlement or trading post could be days or even weeks away, making self-sufficiency a necessity. Yet, despite these challenges, pioneer families like this one possessed a spirit of resilience and determination.
>
> Despite the hardships, there were moments of joy and celebration in the pioneer family's life. Neighbors would come together for barn raisings, corn huskings, and other communal activities, providing a sense of camaraderie and support. Sundays were reserved for worship and rest, with families attending church services held in makeshift chapels or even outdoors.
>
> As the years passed, the Ohio Valley attracted more settlers, and the once-wild frontier began to transform into a thriving agricultural region. Yet, for the pioneering families who had staked their claim in this untamed wilderness, their legacy endured, shaping the landscape and the culture of the region for generations to come.[2]

2. The depiction of pioneer life in the Ohio Valley was generated using AI on ChatGPT.

Over the course of two decades, five of Thomas[5] Buck's six children left New York and moved to Athens County. They all married and all but one of them had children, so our Bucks made a significant contribution to the population of the early settlements of Lodi and Carthage townships in the young state of Ohio. Their names appear below, each with a list of their known children.

Matthew[6] Buck married Magdalene Decker in New York and came to Ohio in 1816 with four children. At least five more children were born to them in Athens County.

Abram Thomas Buck
1810–1891

James Buck
1812–1887

Benjamin Buck
1814–1853

Elizabeth Buck
1816–1905

Sylvester Buck
1819–1889

John Buck
1825–1874

Simeon Buck
1827–1907

William Buck Rev.
1828–1909

Phoebe Jane Buck
1832–1913

Mary[6] Buck married Jonathan Saunders in New York. They came to Athens County in 1818. Five of their eight children were born in New York, three in Athens County.

Elizabeth Saunders
1806–1891

Amasa Saunders
1809–1887

Esther Saunders
1811–1887

Julius Saunders
1813–1882

Olive M. Saunders
1816–1898

Louisa L. Saunders
1820–1875

William A. Saunders
1822–1870

Clarinda Saunders
1824–1849

Sylvester[6] Buck may not have married until he moved to Ohio from New York, possibly around 1836. He married a widow, Mary Barton Ginn, in 1843 and together they had at least three children.

Nathan Sylvester Buck
1844–1918

William B. Buck
1847–1859

Olivia "Olive" Buck
1848–

Olive[6] Buck may have come to Ohio with her twin brother Sylvester or she may have come with her husband, Mr. Cummins (sometimes the name appears as Cummings; first name and date of death unknown.) It is likely that Olive did not have children; if she did, they probably predeceased her.

William[6] Buck married Jerusha Rose in New York. They came to Ohio around 1836 with at least five children and went on to have at least three more in Ohio.

Thomas Henry Buck
1824–1877

Elmira Buck
1826–1900

George Nelson Buck
1830–1908

Adelia Ann Buck
1832–1861

Mary "Polly" Buck
1834–1904

Hiram Richard Buck
1836–1931

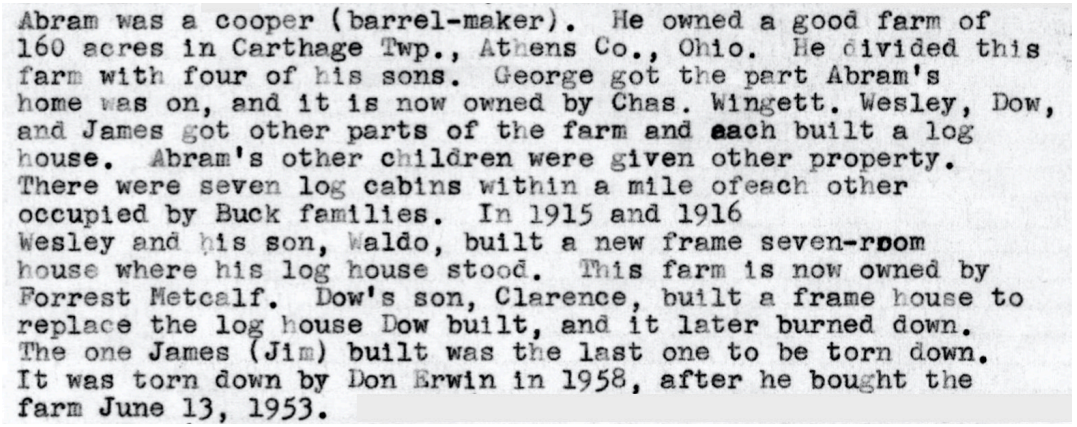
Abigail Buck
1839–1907

Eliza Jerusha Buck
1848–1876

By the middle of the 19th century, life in Athens County was quite different from what it had been during the first two or three decades of the century. The farmers still produced most of their own food, but there were businesses where they could buy cloth, shoes, hats, and foods such as sugar, tea, and coffee. Bartering of goods and services was not uncommon, but people often used cash for their purchases.

Men, women, and children still worked long hours to provide for their material needs. Eventually, four of Matthew's sons had other lines of work in addition to their farming. Abram[7] was a cooper. Sylvester[7] was a blacksmith and gunsmith. Simeon[7] was a blacksmith and also a postmaster. And William[7] was a minister. It would be interesting to know how they learned these trades.

Waldo's description of the farms of Matthew's son Abram[7] Buck and Abram's sons (at right) provides some information about how one branch of the family established themselves on farms during the second half of the nineteenth century.



Abram was a cooper (barrel-maker). He owned a good farm of 160 acres in Carthage Twp., Athens Co., Ohio. He divided this farm with four of his sons. George got the part Abram's home was on, and it is now owned by Chas. Wingett. Wesley, Dow, and James got other parts of the farm and each built a log house. Abram's other children were given other property. There were seven log cabins within a mile ofeach other occupied by Buck families. In 1915 and 1916 Wesley and his son, Waldo, built a new frame seven-room house where his log house stood. This farm is now owned by Forrest Metcalf. Dow's son, Clarence, built a frame house to replace the log house Dow built, and it later burned down. The one James (Jim) built was the last one to be torn down. It was torn down by Don Erwin in 1958, after he bought the farm June 13, 1953.

Religion played an important role in the lives of nineteenth century farmers and their families across our country. According to the *History of Hocking Valley, Ohio*, published in 1883, "The first religious society formed at Lodi was by the Methodists, in 1820, under the supervision of Rev. Goddard Curtis. They worshiped for many years in a small school-house on Shade River." (Page 792.) We can speculate that our ancestors Matthew Buck and Mary Buck Saunders and their families participated in those earliest meetings.

Later generations of Bucks were deeply religious Methodists, and we have plenty of evidence in support of that. Waldo wrote in some detail of many of our ancestors' devout faith in God and active participation in the work of the Methodist church. We also see evidence of this in many obituaries of the Bucks and on the memorial cards printed after their deaths.

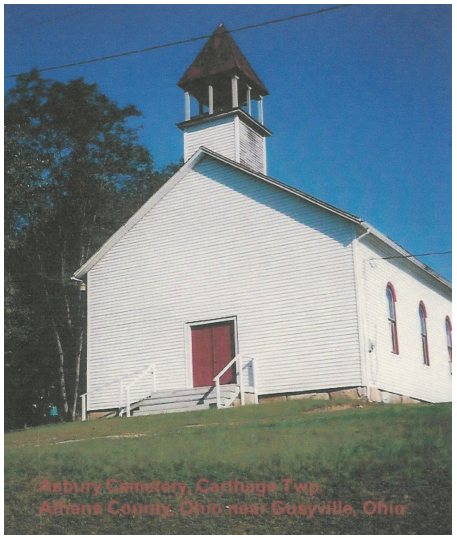
In 1853, when Abram Thomas Buck was 43 years old, he donated the land for Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery. On the next page is Waldo Buck's description of Abram's donation of land and his involvement in building the church, along with photographs of the church taken at four different times over its long history.

Concerning Abram Buck, Waldo wrote:

He gave the land for the Asbury M. E. Church and Cemetery. This lot was a part of the farm later given to his son, Wesley. He furnished much of the lumber for the church which was built about 1854. This church was torn down in 1910 because of its bad condition and rebuilt in 1910 and 1911. It was dedicated June 11, 1911, and the indebtedness was all paid in full on day of dedication. This church was repaire in 1953.

Left, the original church built c. 1854, photographed before it was torn down. From the collection of Ralph Edson Hawk.

Right, Asbury M. E. Church photographed in 2004. Courtesy Ralph Edson Hawk.



Below, the rebuilt church photographed on the day of its dedication, June 11, 1911. From the collection of Ralph Edson Hawk.

By 2017, the building was no longer being used as a church and the bell tower had been removed. See photograph at right.

The probate records of three members of our Buck family—Matthew's son Benjamin[7] and Matthew's siblings Sylvester[6] and Olive[6]—provide interesting details about the lives of the Bucks during the decade before the Civil War. These will be examined in some detail on the next pages.

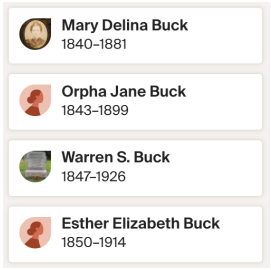
Benjamin Buck was two years old when he came to Athens County from New York with his parents. At the age of 23, he married Talitha Charlotte Secoy from one of the families that came to Ohio with the Bucks. Over the next 15 years, he bought property in Carthage, farmed the land, and with his wife Talitha, had four children (possibly more).

The tragic circumstance of Benjamin's and Talitha's deaths was recorded by Waldo Buck (below). Their "unusual type monument," as described by Waldo, is shown at right in a photograph taken by Ralph Edson Hawk in September 2004.

Benjamin Buck, son of Matthew Buck. Born July 8, 1814; died March 25, 1853; (born in New York).
Wife: Talitha Charlotta Secoy. Born Feb. 16, 1817; died March 23, 1853. It is told that when Benjamin was very sick, he called his wife to his bedside and put his arms around her and held her so tight that it caused her death. They died two days apart and were buried in one grave in the Carthage Presbyterian Cemetery. An unusual type monument marks the grave. They were married on April 1, 1838 (Vol 2, P. 41) by Justice of the Peace Moses Elliott (marriage license secured March 26, 1838 (Vol. 2, P. 41)
Children: Mary; Orpha; Esther E.; Warren.

Carthage(Presbyterian)Cemetery, Carthage Twp Athens County, Ohio - Benjamin & Talitha Buck

Photograph courtesy Ralph Edson Hawk.



With Benjamin and Talitha Buck's deaths, their children were left without parents at the ages of 12, nine, five, and two. We do not know where the four orphans lived immediately following their parents' deaths, but by the time of the 1860 census the two youngest, Warren and Esther, were living with their uncle Simeon[7] Buck and his wife Sarah.

Waldo tells us that Simeon and Sarah raised Clementine and Ollie Woodworth (possibly from a branch of the Woodworth family that Benjamin's daughter Orpha lived with as a servant in 1860.) Waldo makes no mention of the role Simeon and Sarah played in the lives of Simeon's nephew and niece Warren and Esther. That detail appears to have been lost from the family history when Waldo began his research some 80 years later (right).

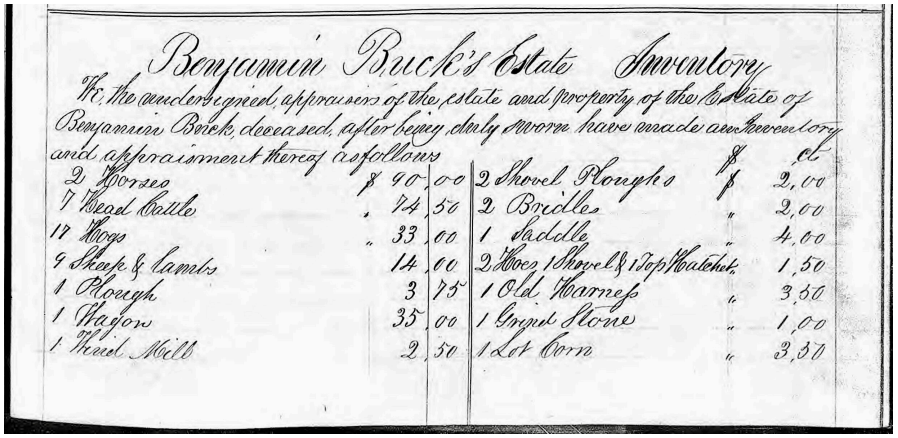
Simeon Buck, a son of Matthew Buck. Born June 12, 1827; died Dec. 15, 1907, at Garden, Ohio. He lived at Hull, Ohio, where he was Postmaster. He was also a blacksmith. He was a great church worker, as were many of the other Bucks. Inscription on his monument: "Come Ye Blessed."
Wife: Sarah Brown, who came from New Hampshire at age nine. Born Oct. 3, 1828; died at Hull, Lodi Twpl, Athens Co., Ohio, April 3, 1899, and was interred in the cemetery by Presbyterian Church, Carthage Twp., April 5, 1899. Married Spet. 17, 1850. Simeon and his wife donated $10.00 to help build a children's home at Athens, Ohio.
Children: Newell Ela; Elba. They also reared Clementine and Ollie Woodworth. Clementine never married. Ollie married William C. Jones.

The probate record for Benjamin Buck (on pages 111-117 of Volume 6 in the “Athens County Record of Wills”), shown here and on the next several pages, gives lots of information about Benjamin’s farm and household and we can assume, the farms and households of his siblings and cousins. I will make some comments, but the reader should be aware that I’m not an historian of nineteenth century farm life. Google only got me so far; I probably have more questions than answers.

Benjamin’s possessions were appraised by Messrs. Merwin, Mills and Caldwell, for which they were paid $1.50 each (Pages 111-113). The appraisal was presented to the court on April 20, 1853, 26 days after Benjamin’s death.

Benjamin owned two horses, seven head cattle, nine sheep and lambs, 13 chickens (listed among the sales, but not in the inventory.) Farm equipment included numerous small tools, a plow, a wagon, two shovel plows, and a windmill. Windmills, found on farms from colonial times on, were used to pump water and grind grain. Two fields of wheat are listed; these were probably ready for harvest and available to the person who made the highest bid.

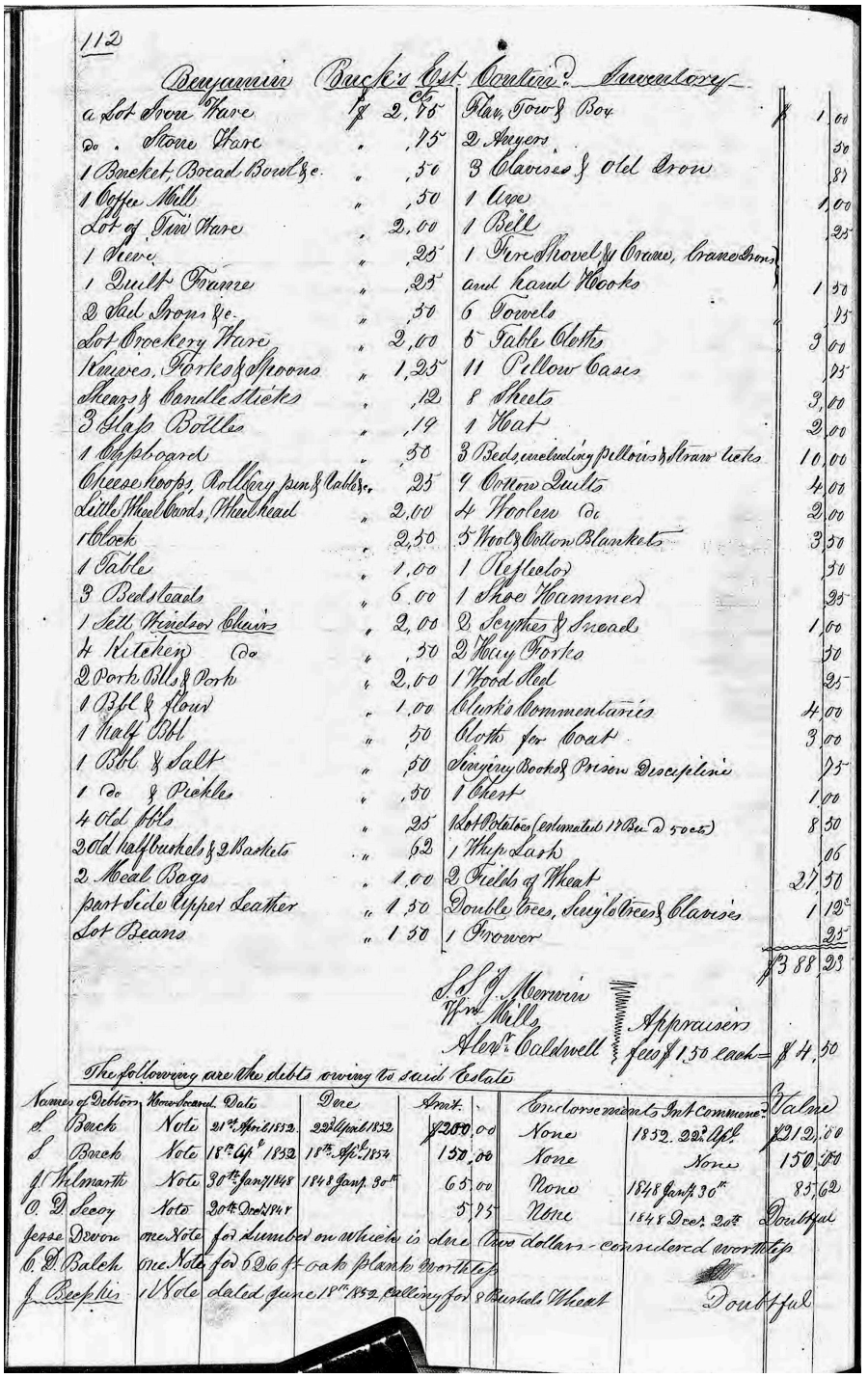
In addition to farming equipment, unharvested fields, animals and food, the list includes household goods and equipment (1 Quilt Frame, 1 Shoe Hammer), bedding (including quilts), clothing, and materials for the construction of clothing.



Benjamin Buck’s Estate Inventory

We, the undersigned, appraisers of the estate and property of the Estate of Benjamin Buck, deceased, after being duly sworn have made an Inventory and appraisement thereof as follows

	$	¢		$	¢
2 Horses	$	90	00	2 Shovel Ploughs	$	2	00
7 Head Cattle		14	50	2 Bridles		2	00
17 Hogs		33	00	1 Saddle		4	00
9 Sheep & Lambs		14	00	2 Hoes 1 Shovel & 1 Top Hatchet		1	50
1 Plough		3	75	1 Old Harness		3	50
1 Wagon		35	00	1 Grind Stone		1	00
1 Wind Mill		2	50	1 Lot Corn		3	50



112

Benjamin Buck’s Est Continued Inventory

a Lot Iron Ware	$	2	75	Flax, Tow & Bag	$	1	00
Do . Stone Ware			75	2 Sawyers			50
1 Bucket, Bread Board &c.			50	3 Clevises & old Iron			87
1 Coffee Mill			50	1 Axe		1	00
Lot of Tin Ware		2	00	1 Bell			25
1 Sieve			25	1 Fire Shovel & Crane, Crane Iron			
1 Quilt Frame			25	and hand Hooks		1	50
2 Sad Irons &c.			50	6 Towels			75
Lot Crockery Ware		2	00	5 Table Cloths		3	00
Knives, Forks & Spoons		1	25	11 Pillow Cases			75
Shears & Candle Sticks			12	8 Sheets		3	00
3 Glass Bottles			19	1 Hat		2	00
1 Cupboard			50	3 Beds including pillows & Straw ticks		10	00
Cheese Hoops, Rolling pin & Table &c.			25	9 Cotton Quilts		4	00
Little Wheel Cards, Wheel head		2	00	4 Woolen do		2	00
1 Clock		2	50	5 Wool & Cotton Blankets		3	50
1 Table		1	00	1 Reflector			50
3 Bedsteads		6	00	1 Shoe Hammer			25
1 Set Kneisbon Chairs		2	00	2 Scythes & Snead		1	00
4 Ketches do			50	2 Hay Forks			50
2 Pork Bbls & Pork		2	00	1 Wood Sled			25
1 Bbl & Flour		1	00	Clark’s Commentaries		4	00
1 Half Bbl			50	Cloth for Coat		3	00
1 Bbl & Salt			50	Surgery Books & Prison Discipline			75
1 do & Pickles			50	1 Chest		1	00
4 Old Tubs			25	1 Lot Potatoes (estimated 17 Bu’d 50 cts)		8	50
2 Old half Bushels & 2 Baskets			62	1 Whip Lash			06
2 Meal Bags		1	00	2 Fields of Wheat		27	50
part Side Upper Leather		1	50	Double Trees, Swingle Trees & Clevises		1	12½
Lot Beans		1	50	1 Drawer			25
					$	388	25

S. J. Merwin
Wm. Mills
Alex. Caldwell
Appraisers
Fees $1.50 each — $4.50

The following are the debts owing to said Estate

Names of Debtors	Notes Secured	Date	Due	Amount	Circumstances	Int. Commenced	Value
S. Buck	Note	21st March 1832	22d April 1832	$200.00	None	1832. 22d April	$212.00
S. Buck	Note	18th Sept. 1832	18th Sept. 1834	150.00	None	None	150.00
J. Wilmarth	Note	30th Jan’y 1848	1848 Jan’y 30th	65.00	None	1848 Jan’y 30th	83.62
O. D. Lecoy	Note	20th Dec’r 1848		5.75	None	1848 Dec’r 20th	Doubtful
Jesse Devore	one Note	for Lumber on which is due		Two dollars - considered worthless			
O. D. Balch	one Note	for 626 ft oak Plank & worthless					
J. Beeghly	1 Note	dated June 18th 1852, calling for 8 Bushels Wheat					Doubtful

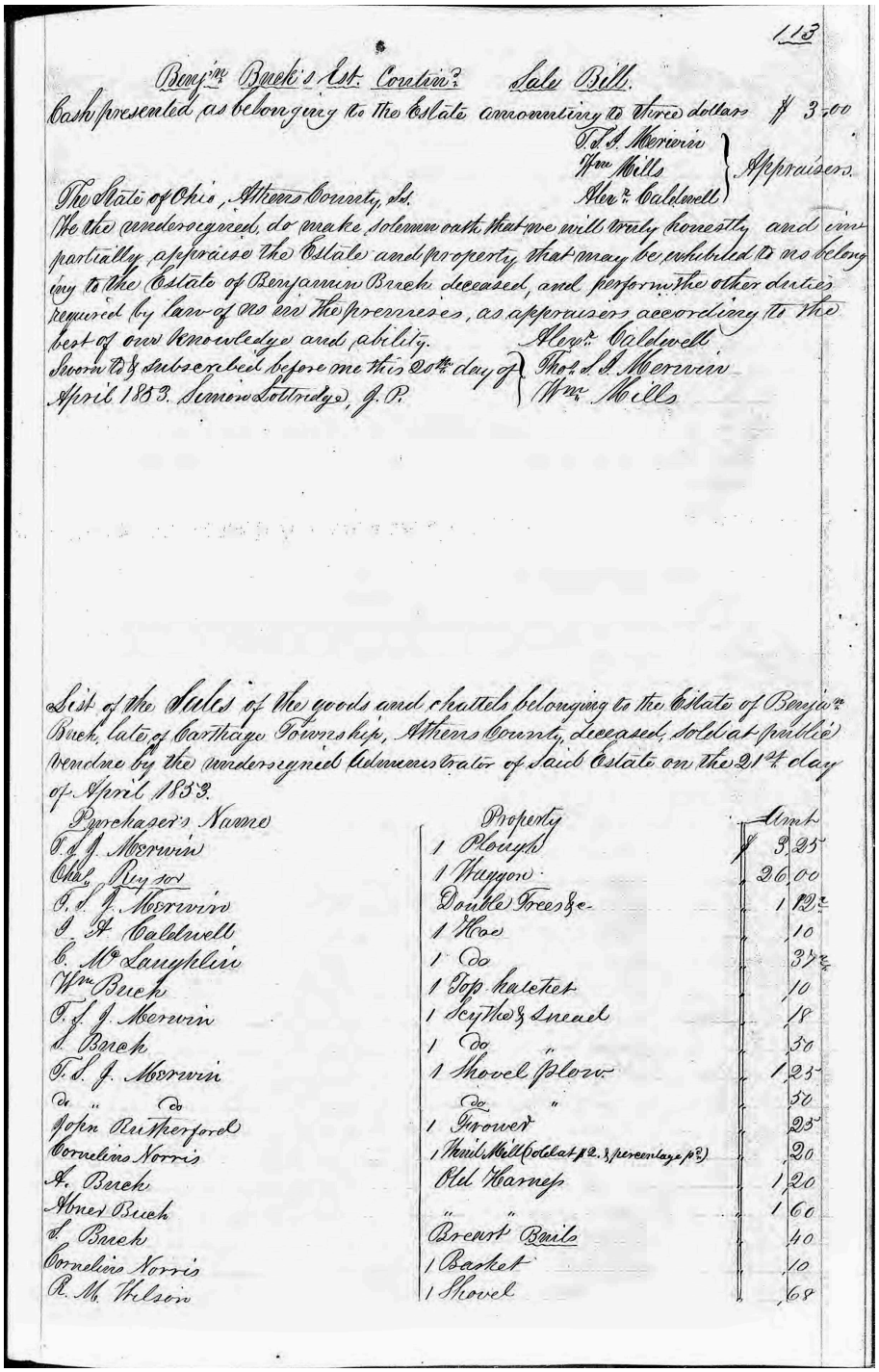
“Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998,” Ancestry (ancestry website; accessed 24 March, 2025), vol. 6, pp. 111-117, Benjamin Buck.

I found two items on the list particularly intriguing: *Clark's Commentaries* [*sic*] and "Singing Books and *Prison Discipline*," listed near the bottom of the second column on page 112 (See image on previous page). These are the only books I could find on the inventory. *Clark's Commentaries* would have been the work of Adam Clarke who wrote a 4-volume commentary on the Bible which (per Wikipedia) "was a primary Methodist theological resource for two centuries." I don't know how common it was for a farm family to own a copy of this, but it suggests Benjamin may have had a level of education beyond the average farmer at the time. In any case, it gives us additional data showing that the Bucks were religious and devout Methodists.

Considering the 19th-century Methodist disapproval of frivolity, I suppose the "Singing Books" were probably hymnals, but as I already wrote I am not a scholar. Internet research did not answer the question of what *Prison Discipline* might be. In 1848, Francis Calley Gray wrote a book entitled *Prison Discipline in America*, in which he argued against the harsh conditions of prison at the time. Clarke became a Methodist and was acquainted with John Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism; that association may explain why the book was one of the small number of volumes in Benjamin's collection. The book was widely distributed at the time it was written.

On April 21, 1853, Benjamin's "goods and chattels" were sold "at public vendue" (auction) to pay his debts and provide support for his children. The purchasers and the amounts paid for each item are shown on pages 113-117 of the probate record. About two-thirds of the way through page 116, a new clerk—one with a less elegant hand—appears to have begun the work of transcribing the information. The penmanship of both clerks is quite readable and the reproductions of the pages are clearer than one sometimes finds with old documents. Some interesting items sold that were not included in the original inventory, including a dinner horn. Dinner horns, common in farming households at the time, were used to call the farmers in from the field for meals.

Many purchases were made by Bucks—probably about one quarter of the sales. There are also a number of sales to members of allied families.



113

Benjn Buck's Est. Contin.d Sale Bill.

Cash presented as belonging to the Estate amounting to three dollars $ 3.00

T. S. J. Merwin
Wm Mills
Alexr Caldwell } Appraisers.

The State of Ohio, Athens County, Ss.

We the undersigned, do make solemn oath that we will truly honestly and impartially appraise the Estate and property that may be exhibited to us belonging to the Estate of Benjamin Buck deceased, and perform the other duties required by law of us in the premises, as appraisers according to the best of our knowledge and ability.

Alexr Caldwell
Thos S. J. Merwin
Wm Mills

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 20th day of April 1853. Simon Lottridge, J. P.

List of the Sales of the goods and chattels belonging to the Estate of Benjn Buck, late of Carthage Township, Athens County, deceased, sold at public vendue by the undersigned Administrator of said Estate on the 21st day of April 1853.

Purchaser's Name	Property	Amt
T. S. J. Merwin	1 Plough	$ 3.25
Chas Reysor	1 Waggon	26.00
T. S. J. Merwin	Double Trees &c.	1.12½
I. A. Caldwell	1 Hoe	.10
C. McLaughlin	1 do	.37½
Wm Buck	1 Top hatchet	.10
T. S. J. Merwin	1 Scythe & Snead	.18
S. Buck	1 do "	.50
T. S. J. Merwin	1 Shovel plow	1.25
do " do	do "	.50
John Rutherford	1 Frower "	.25
Cornelius Norris	1 Mill Mill (sold at $2. & percentage pd)	.20
A. Buck	Old Harness	1.20
Abner Buck	" "	1.60
S. Buck	Breast Bails	.40
Cornelius Norris	1 Basket	.10
R. M. Wilson	1 Shovel	.68

"Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," Ancestry (ancestry website: accessed 24 March, 2025), vol. 6, pp. 111-117, Benjamin Buck.

Benj.n Buck's Est Contin.d

T. S. J. Merwin	1 Hay Fork	$	27½
A. Buck	Old Hammer & Kettle		1,50
John Buck	1 Auger		15
Isaac Cole	" "		27
John Caldwell	1 Ave		1,00
Elisha Langhead	1 Reflector		50
Justus Dart	1 Bell		20
John Hammond	Milk Pan		28
George Buck	" "		26
John Buck	1 Tin Pail		22
E. Langhead	1 " "		12½ = 42.58
E. Balcum	1 Tin Pan &c		05
N. Woodworth	1 Wood Pail		20
S. Buck	Wood Bowl		31
H. F. Caldwell	1 Sieve		15
R. M. Wilson	2 Stone Crocks		26
Wm Buck	2 Stone Jars		20
Hiram Ranier	" " "		17
Jackson Winters	1 Coffee Mill		30
L. W. Mead	2 Flats		40
Morris Wilmarth	2 Chairs &c		50
John Buck	1 Tea Kettle		15
J. Sutton	1 Bake Kettle		30
N. F. Woodworth	1 Spider		19
N. S. Butts	1 Shoe hammer, hay fork &c		40
James Buck	Knives, forks, Spoons &c		62
S. H. Martin	1 Sett Com Teas		30
Geo Buck	1 Crockery		12½
Philip M. Darby	4 Barrels		30
S. N. Martin	2 Pitchers		25
N. F. Woodworth	Old Crockery		05
Henry Pierson	1 Sett Plates		20
N. F. Woodworth	" "		28
S. H. Martin	2 Platters		31
H. F. Caldwell	1 Bottle		06
J. Dart	1 "		05
T. S. J. Merwin	1 "		05
George Buck	1 Coffee Pot & Tin Can		15
S. H. Martin	1 Trunk		10
T. S. J. Merwin	1 Basket		08
Morris Wilmarth	Upper Leather		1,19
S. H. Martin	2 Bags		87
Charles Russel	Reeds & Loom & Harness		62

Sale Bill

Morris Wilmarth	1 Bridle	$	26
John Buck	" "		1,30 $53.32
James Buck	1 Little Wheel		1,55
John Carlton	Wheel heads & Tow Cards		15
Isaac Boyce	1 Barrel		16
S. H. Martin	1 Bbl. & Pork		5,00
" "	" Flour		1,00
Isaac Boyce	" Pickles		45
James Martin	" Salt		50
Wm Buck	1 half Barrel		60
Joseph Wilmarth	Lot Flax		1,20
S. H. Martin	" "		1,00
	1 ot tow		45
Wm Buck	1 Saddle		4,00
Morris Wilmarth	1 Cradle		05
Wm Buck	Sett Quilt Frames		38
T. S. J. Merwin	1 Bake Kettle		05
John Caldwell	1 Feather Bed		4,71
S. H. Martin	" " "		3,00
" " "	" " "		1,50
" " "	1 Quilt "		20
John Caldwell	1 Clock		2,05
S. H. Martin	1 Quilt		50
" " "	" "		50
" " "	" "		20
A. Buck	" "		62
" "	" "		55
" "	1 Blanket		76
S. H. Martin	1 "		75
" "	" "		75
A. Buck	" "		1,20
S. H. Martin	" "		1,15
A. Buck	1 Wool Comfort		50
" "	" " "		90
S. H. Martin	" " "		50
1 Quilt	" " "		37
	Bedstead		2,56
James Marlow	1 "		2,50 95.63
S. H. Martin	1 Bedcord		33
James Marlow	1 Bedcord		31
James Buck	1 "		30
Francis Tibble	1 Bedstead		2,75
Jack Winters	1 Table (Sold $1.05 & percentage paid)		10

"Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," Ancestry (ancestry website: accessed 24 March, 2025), vol. 6, pp. 111-117, Benjamin Buck.

Benjm Bucks Estate Continued

Nathan Jonas	1 Crane & hooks	$ 1	05
Luther Frost	Knives & forks		60
Morris Wilmarth	1 Cupboard		16
George Burton	1 Dinner horn		10
N. F. Woodworth	1 Lot of Beans		50
William Sanders	1/2 B. Beans		55
"	" "		63
S. Buck	1 B.B.l Beans & corn		20
Danl. Walker	1/2 B. Beans		60
Jackson Beans			15
Abm Buck	4 Chairs	1	50
James Buck	1 Sett	2	00
Wm Sanders	1 Quilt	1	00
Justus Dart	1 Sheet		38
Russel Glazier	do "		35
Justin Dart	do "		33
"	" "		38
Wm Buck	1 Hat	1	53
" "	1 Sheet		37
" "	" "		37
A. Buck	1 Quilt	$ 1	54
Morris Wilmarth	1 Last		05
Wm Dinsmoor	Clarks Commentaries	5	10
N. J. Woodwarth	Prison Dicne &c		33
Wm Buck	Cloth for Coat	2	75
N. F. Woodworth	1 Cntr Cloth		80
James Buck	" "		76
Joseph Wilmarth	" "		83
Abram Buck	1 Quilt	1	30 $24.65
Morris Wilmarth	1 Pr Towels		27
George Buck	" " "		30
Wm Dinsmore	1 Table Cloth		37
James Buck	1 Pair Towels		26
" "	1 Table Cloth		47
" "	1 Pair Sheets		51
N. F. Woodworth	1 " "		45
James Buck	1 " Pillow Slips		15
N. F. Woodworth	1 " " "		13
S. H. Martain	1 " " "		13
James Buck	1 " " "		13
N. F. Woodworth	3 " " "		21
James Buck	1 Note Book		31
Francis Tibble	1 Chest	1	35

Sale Bill

Jackson Mooney	1 Horse	$ 77	25
Simeon Buck	1 "	18	00
Jacob Green	1 Cow	17	87
Wm Elliot	1 Cow & Calf	24	75
Geo Benton	1 Heifer	18	50
James Morrison	1 Bull	6	00
Luther Frost	1 Cow	22	00
James Dicker	1 Heifer	14	60
James Morrison	1 "	9	25
Luther Frost	1 Lot Potatoes 10 Bush	5	15
Francis Tibble	1 Sow	6	00
James Morrison	8 Hogs	24	50
" "	"	12	50
Jackson Mooney	9 Sheep & Lambs ea 2.25	20	25
S. H. Martin	1 Pig		10
" " "	1 Lot of Beets		25
Wm Sanders	1 Grind Stone	1	10
S. H. Martin	1 Lot Corn	5	00
John Hammond	1 " Potatoes 3 B.	1	26 $414.00
S. H. Martin	15 Chickens	1	50
S. Buck	1 Wheat Field	10	75
F. Tibble	1 " "	22	75
John Elliot	1 Half-Bush Measure		52
" "	1 Light Stand		05
T. S. J. Merwin	Box & Bbls		25
Danl. Barker	Fan Mill		50
T. S. J. Merwin	1 Sled		25
Robert Peeples	1 Table		25
D. Barker	1 Old Rake Head		05
	Amt	$450	88

I certify the above to be correct

Thos S. J. Merwin Clerk

The State of Ohio Athens County sf. I. Walter Glazier, Administrator of the estate of Benjamin Buck deceased, do make solemn oath that the above is a correct statement and bill of the ~~state~~ of the property of the estate of Benjamin Buck deceased in all respects to the best of my knowledge and belief. Walter Glazier

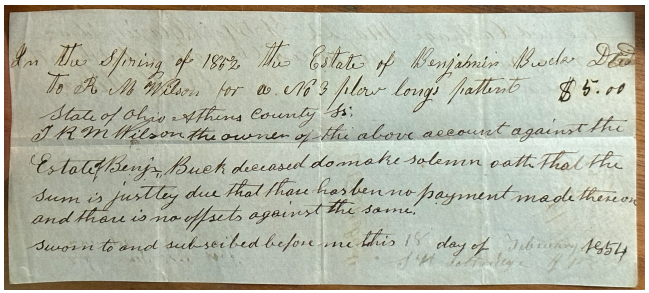
Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 28th day of May 1853

Simon H. Lottridge J P

"Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," Ancestry (ancestry website: accessed 24 March, 2025), vol. 6, pp. 111-117, Benjamin Buck.

The probate packet for Benjamin's heirs, housed in the Genealogy Center and Library at the Southeast Ohio History Center in Athens, provided information beyond what is available in the "Athens County Record of Wills," including statements from Benjamin's creditors. Some of these are shown on this page, along with transcriptions.

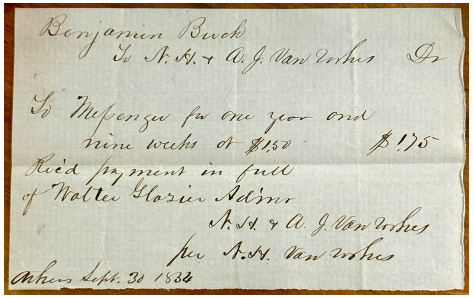
At the bottom of the sworn testimony by R. M. Wilson, shown at right, the "18," "February," and Lottridge's signature appear very faintly, suggesting that a different ink was used. Probably the statement was prepared before Wilson came before Lottridge to testify to the accuracy of the bill.


In the Spring of 1852 The Estate of Benjamin Buck Dcsd
To R M Wilson for a No 3 plow longs pattent $5.00
State of Ohio Athens County Ss:
I R M Wilson the owner of the above account against the
Estate of Benj Buck deceased do make solemn oath that the
Sum is justly due that there has been no payment made thereon
and there is no offsets against the same.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18 day of February 1854

Transcription:

In the Spring of 1852. The Estate of Benjamin Buck Dcsd
To R M Wilson for a No 3 plow longs pattent $5.00
State of Ohio Athens County Ss:
I R M Wilson the owner of the above account against the
Estate of Benj Buck deceased do make solemn oath that the
Sum is justly due that there has been no payment made thereon
and there is no offsets against the same.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18 day of February 1854
S W Lottridge J P

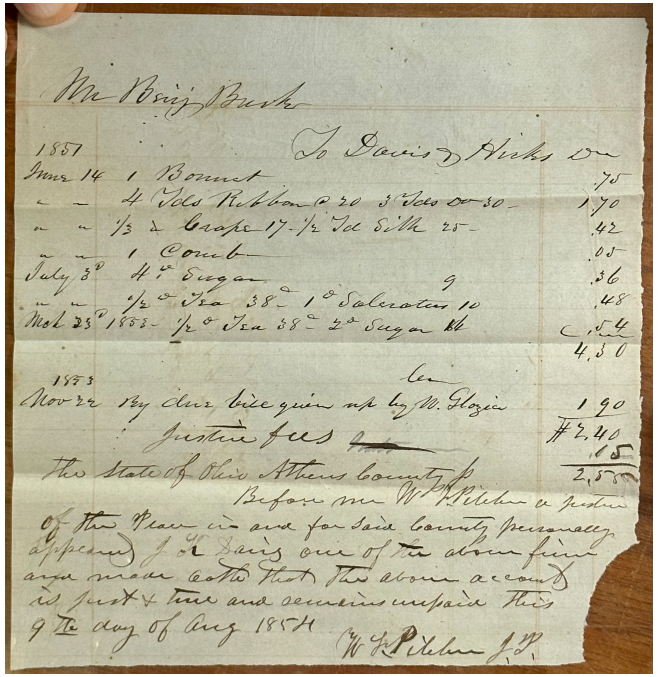
At right is a receipt signed by N. H. Vorhes, one of the proprietors of the *Athens County Messenger*, acknowledging that he received payment from Walter Glazier, the administrator, for Benjamin's debt. The Dr (or sometimes D~) following the proprietor's name or names is something I saw frequently. I can only guess what it stands for—perhaps Dealer? I found a wonderful explanation on the internet: "I think it was the abbreviation for **drayer** and meant the commercial provider of goods or services in the second half of the 19th century." But commenters challenged this statement and I couldn't find evidence in support of it elsewhere.


Benjamin Buck
To N. H. + A. J. Van Vorhes Dr
To Messenger for one year and
nine weeks at $1.50 $1.75
Rec'd payment in full
of Walter Glazier Admr
N. H. + A. J. Van Vorhes
per N. H. Van Vorhes
Athens Sept. 30 1854

Transcription:

Benjamin Buck
To N.H. + A.J. Van Vorhes Dr
To Messenger for one year and
nine weeks at $1.50 $1.75
Rec'd payment in full
of Walter Glazier Admin
N.H. + A.J. Van Vorhes
per N.H. Van Vorhes
Athens Sept. 30 1854

The statement on the right is a list of amounts due on Benjamin's account at Davis and Hicks, a dry goods store in Athens County. Benjamin, or more likely Talitha, had purchased a bonnet, ribbon, crepe, silk, a comb, sugar, tea and saleratus (baking soda). The original bill was for $4.50. It seems the estate administrator paid Davis and Hicks $1.90 towards the account on November 22, 1853, leaving a balance of $2.40 to which Justice fees of 15¢ had been added. I don't know the explanation for "Justice fees."


Mr Benj Buck
1851 To Davis & Hicks Dr
June 14 1 Bonnet .75
" " 4 Yds Ribbon @ 20 3 Yds Do @ 30 1.70
" " 1/3 [?] Crape 17 1/2 Yd Silk 25 .42
" " 1 Comb .05
July 3d 4 lb Sugar 9 .36
" " 1/2 lb Tea 38 1 lb Saleratus 10 .48
Mch 23d 1853 1/2 lb Tea 38 2 lb Sugar 16 .54
4.50
1853 [?]
Nov 22 By due bill given [?] by W. Glazier. 1.90
#2.40
Justice fees .15
2.55
The State of Ohio Athens County ss
Before me W [?] Pilcher a Justice
of the Peace in and for said County personally
appeared J [?] Davis one of the above firm
and made oath that the above account
is just + true and remains unpaid this
9th day of Aug 1854
W [?] Pilcher J.P.

Transcription:

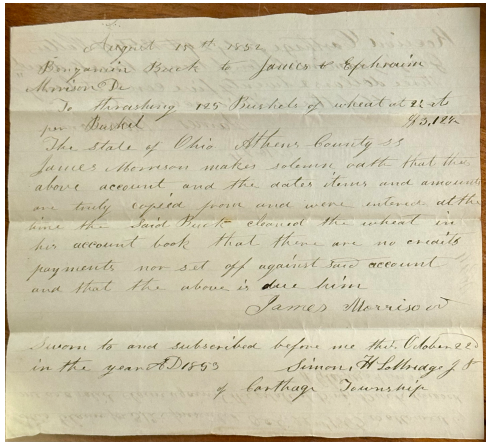
Mr. Benj Buck

1851		To Davis & Hicks D~	
June 14	1 Bonnet		.75
"	"	4 Yds Ribbon @20 3 Yds Do @30	1.70
"	"	1/3 [?] Crape 17 1/2 Yd Silk 25	.42
"	"	1 Comb	.05
July 3d	4 lb Sugar	9	.36
"	"	1/2 lb Tea 38¢ 1 lb Saleratus 10	.48
Mch 23d 1853	1/2 lb Tea 38¢ 2 lb Sugar 16		.54
			4.50
1853		[?]	
Nov 22	By due bill given [?] by W. Glazier.		1.90
			#2.40
		Justice fees	.15
The State of Ohio Athens County ss			2.55

Before me W [?] Pilcher a Justice
of the Peace in and for said County personally
appeared J [?] Davis one of the above firm
and made oath that the above account
is just + true and remains unpaid this
9th day of Aug 1854
W [?] Pilcher J.P.

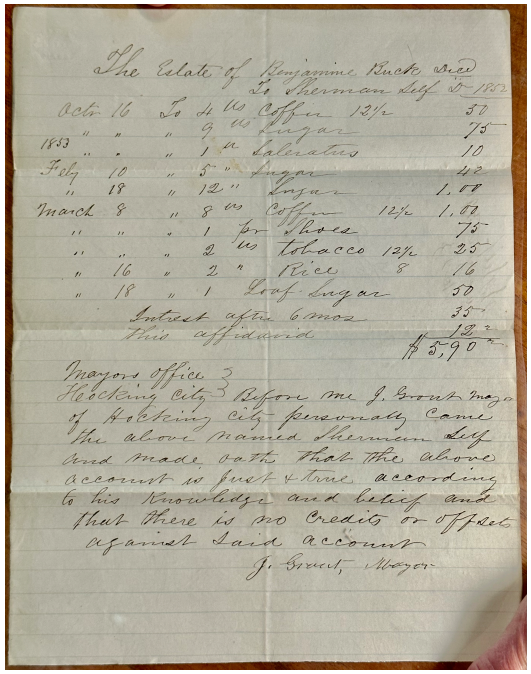
The list of debts to Sherman Self is at right with a transcription beside it. The 12¢ charge for "this affidavid" is something I did not see on any of the other notes. Perhaps Mr. Self was billing for his time spent collecting on the debt. It looks as though he was able to take care of his business through the mayor of Hocking City rather than testifying before a justice of the peace. (I don't know where Hocking City was located; it doesn't seem to be on the map any longer.)

James Morrison's sworn statement that Benjamin Buck owed him $3.12 1/2 for thrashing 125 bushels of wheat at two and a half cents per bushel is below. At lower right is Dr. Stimson's bill for visits to Benjamin and Talitha during the last weeks of their lives, sworn before Justice of the Peace Stanley on October 14, 1853.



Transcription of the statement above:

August 15th 1852
Benjamin Buck to James + Ephraim
Morrison Dr
To thrashing 125 Bushels of wheat at 2 1/2 cts
per Bushel $3.12 1/2
The state of Ohio Athens County SS
James Morrison makes solemn oath that the
above account and the dates and amounts
are truly copied from and were entered at the
time the Said Buck cleaned the wheat in
his account book that there are no credits
payments nor set off against said amount
and that the above is due him
James Morrison
Sworn to and subscribed before me this October 22d
In the year A D 1853 Simon H Lottridge J.P.
Of Carthage Township

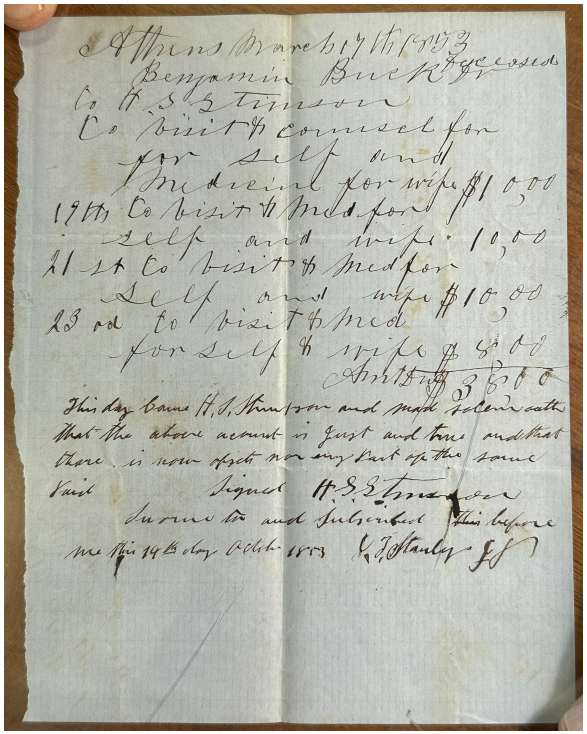


Transcription of Sherman Self's bill:

The Estate of Benjamin Buck Decd
To Sherman Self D 1852

Oct 16	To 4 lbs Coffee 12 1/2	50
" "	" 9 lbs Sugar	75
1853" "	" 1 lb Saleratus	10
Feby 10.	" 5 " Sugar	42
" 18	" 12 " Sugar	1.00
March 8	" 8 lbs Coffee. 12 1/2.	1.00
" "	" 1 pr Shoes	75
" "	" 2 lbs tobacco 12 1/2.	25
" 16	" 2 " Rice. 8	16
" 8	" 1 Loaf Sugar	50
	Interest after 6 mos	35
	this affidavid	12
		$5.90

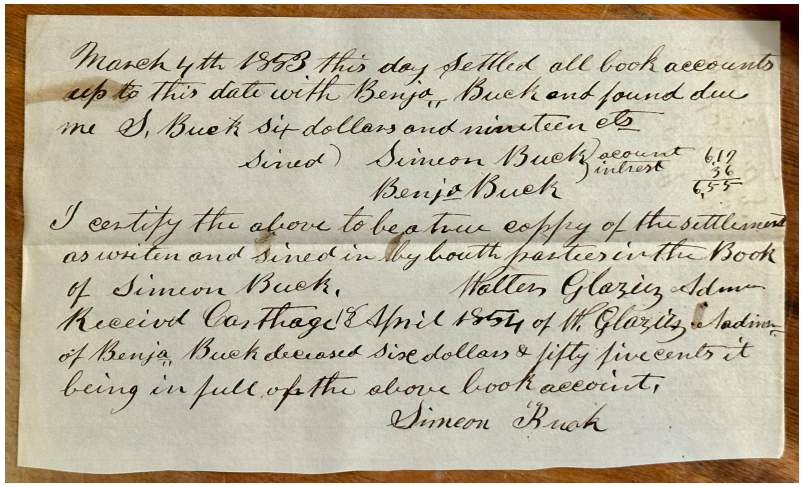
Mayors office}
Hocking City } Before me J. Grant Mayor
of Hocking City personally came
the above named Sherman Self
and made oath that the above
account is Just + true according
to his Knowledge and belief and
that there is no credits or offsets
against said account.
J. Grant, Mayor



Transcription of Dr. Stimson's bill, at left:

Athens March 17th 1853
Benjamin Buck Deceased Dr
To H S Stimson
To visit to counsel for
for self and
medicine for wife $10,00
19th to visit + med for
self and wife 10,00
21st to visit + med for
self and wife $10,00
23rd to visit + med
for self + wife $8,00
Amt due $38,00
This day came H.S. Stimson and made solemn oath
that the above amount is just and true and that
there is now offsets nor any part of the same
paid Signed H.S. Stimson
Sworn to and Subscribed before
me this 14th day of October 1853 [?] Stanly JP

The statements on this page are less faded and more legible than most of the papers in the probate packet, so I spared myself the task of transcribing them. If they were actually written by Simeon, Benjamin and William Buck, as seems likely, our ancestors were probably fairly well educated.



March 4th 1853 this day settled all book accounts up to this date with Benja. Buck and found due me S. Buck Six dollars and nineteen cts

Sined) Simeon Buck account 6.19
Benja Buck interest .36
6.55

I certify the above to be a true copy of the settlement as writen and sined in by both parties in the Book of Simeon Buck. Walter Glazier Admr

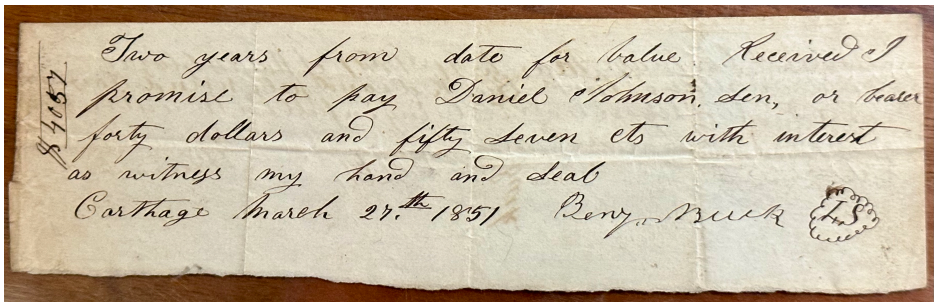
Receivd Carthage 8 April 1854 of W. Glazier Admr of Benja. Buck deceased Six dollars & fifty five cents it being in full of the above book account.

Simeon Buck

The common practice during the 19th century was for farmers to keep account books that provided a record of purchases and sales and loans made. (See note at left.) It seems that a few weeks before Benjamin's death, his brother Simeon had gone over his books and concluded that Benjamin owed him $6.19. Benjamin had agreed to the calculation and both had signed a statement. A year later, Simeon showed the book to Walter Glazier, the administrator of the estate, or else testified to its accuracy, and collected $6.55 - the original debt plus 36¢ interest. I had some difficulty deciding who wrote the note but came to the conclusion that, except for "Walter Glazier, Admin," which appears twice, it may have been written by Simeon. He added a nice flourish to the B in Buck when he signed the bottom of the note.

It was not unusual during the 19th century for someone to exchange a promissory note from a third party for a cash loan or bartered goods or services. On the right is a statement signed by Benjamin Buck on March 27, 1851 in which he promised to pay Daniel Johnson $40.57 two years after the date signed. Johnson either loaned that amount to Benjamin or provided him with goods or services worth that amount. It seems that Daniel later gave the note to William Buck (or possibly someone else who then traded it with William), probably for a loan or to purchase something from William. On the back of the note William wrote that he received $47.87—the original $40.57 plus interest—from Benjamin's estate "being in full on the within note." IOUs such as these would be worded as shown here, with the borrower promising to pay either the identified lender or bearer of the note.

front

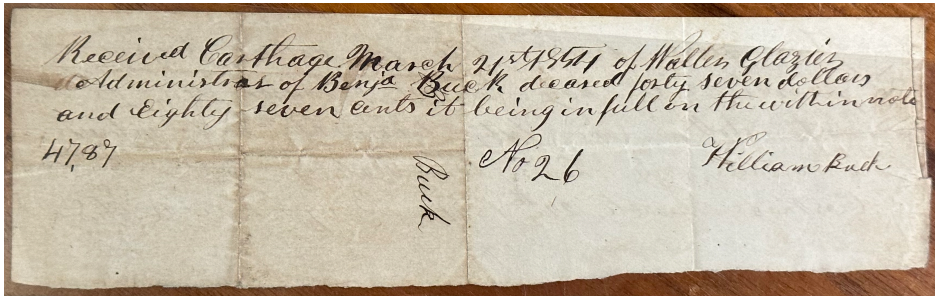


$40.57

Two years from date for value Received I promise to pay Daniel Johnson Jun, or bearer forty dollars and fifty seven cts with interest as witness my hand and seal

Carthage March 27th 1851 Benj. Buck

back



Received Carthage March 27th 1854 of Walter Glazier Administrator of Benja Buck deased forty seven dollars and Eighty seven cents it being in full on the within note

47,87 No 26 William Buck

Buck

Received of Benjamin Buck by Walter Glazier admr the Tax for 1853 on the following described Lands in Athens County, viz:

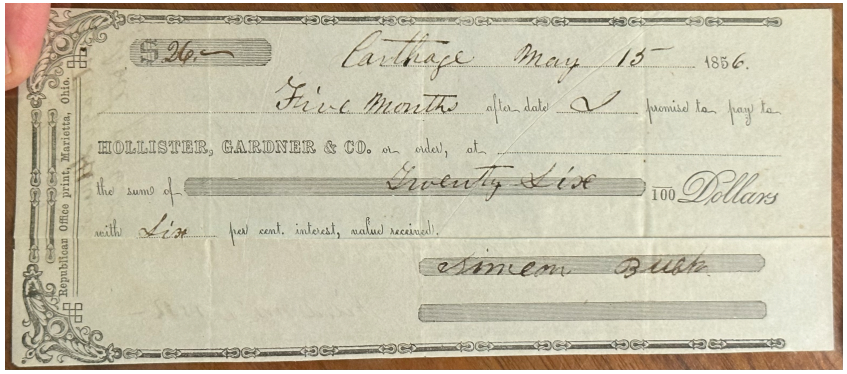
R.	T.	S.	F.	Part	A.	Val.	$	C.	M
12	5	17		N Side S ½	130	290	4	49	5

On Chattel Property,

Dec 6 A. D. 1853. Wm Golden Treasurer Athens Co.

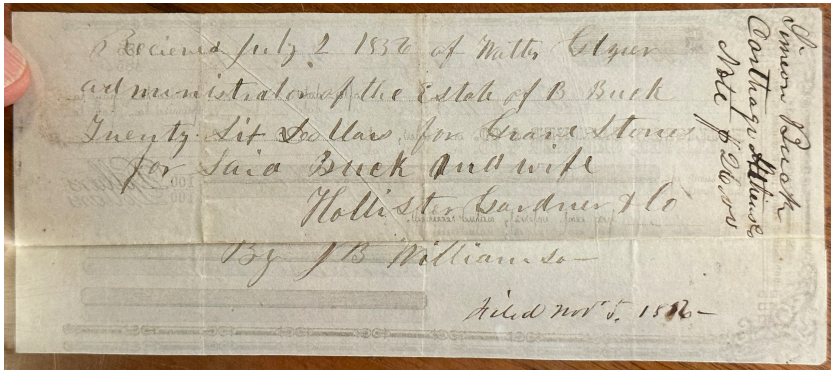
On the left is a receipt for payment of Benjamin's property taxes by Walter Glazier, administrator of the estate. Benjamin owned 130 acres in range 12, township 5, section 17, valued at $290. The tax was 4 dollars, 49 cents, and 5 mills. A mill was one tenth of a cent. Half-cent (or 5 mill) coins were minted in the U.S. from 1792 until 1857.

Simeon Buck ordered the gravestone for his brother Benjamin and Benjamin's wife from Hollister, Gardner & Co. and presented the statement (front and back sides and below) to the administrator of the estate in order to collect the $26 he needed to pay for the stone. Although Simeon agreed to pay six percent interest, the payment was for only $26, perhaps because he paid the bill after only one and 1/2 months rather than six months.



Transcription of front side:

$26.- Carthage May 15 1856.
Five months after date I promise to pay to
Hollister, Gardner & Co. or order, at _____
the sum of Twenty Six Dollars
with Six per cent interest, value received.
Simeon Buck

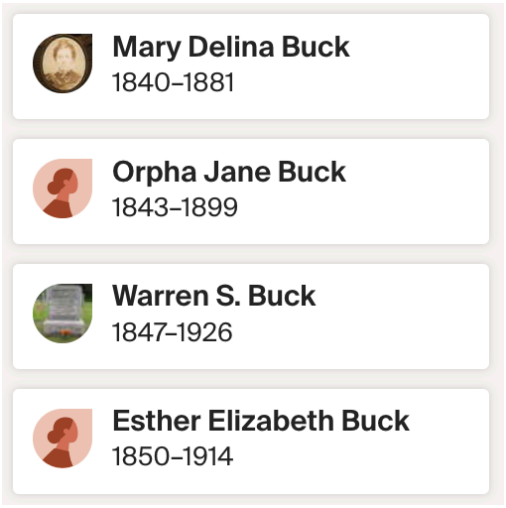


Transcription of reverse side:

Received July 2 1856 of Walter Glazier
administrator of the Estate of B Buck
Twenty-six Dollars for Grave Stone
for Said Buck and wife
Hollister Gardner + Co
By JB William Sr
Filed Nov. 5 1856

Simeon Buck
Carthage Athens Co
Note $26.00

Benjamin and Talitha's children seem to have done well despite their tragic loss at such young ages. They all grew up in Ohio, married there and had children to add to the growing population of Athens County Bucks. The two oldest, Mary Delina and Orpha Jane, eventually moved to Missouri with others of the Buck clan. The two youngest, Warren and Esther, remained in Athens County until their deaths.



In 1860 Mary Delina lived with her recently widowed uncle, Benjamin[7] Buck's brother, William[7] Buck and his three young daughters. She was likely helping William care for the recently bereaved little girls. The following year she married James Windsor and in 1867 the Windsors were part of the Buck group that immigrated to Macon County, Missouri.

In 1860 Orpha Jane Buck lived in Gallia, Ohio with the Nathaniel Woodworth family. On the census she is listed as a servant; it is also noted that she attended school during the previous year. In 1861 she married James Patterson in Gallia. The 1870 census shows her back in Athens County. Sometime after that she moved to Missouri.

In 1860, the census shows that Warren lived with his father's brother Simeon[7] Buck and Simeon's wife Sarah. He married Mary Jane Pierce in 1868. Their only son died in infancy, but they then had five daughters, three of them marrying, bearing children and living into old age in Athens County. Warren died in Carthage Township in 1926.

In 1860, Esther, like her brother, lived with her uncle Simeon and his wife. Ten years later she married William Hawk in Athens County and the couple raised four children together before her death in Athens County on January 6, 1914.

On September 11, 1853, five months after Benjamin and Talitha's deaths, Benjamin's uncle, Sylvester[6] Buck, died at the age of 61.

Sylvester married Mary Eliza Polly Barton Ginn, a widow with seven children under the age of 15, on November 2, 1843. He and Mary had three children together before his death a decade later.

When Sylvester died, Mary was left with their three children to raise. Mary's daughter Rosannah was still under Mary's care as well. Sylvester's son Nathan Sylvester was not yet ten years old, William was six, and Olive only five.

Nathan Sylvester Buck
1844–1918

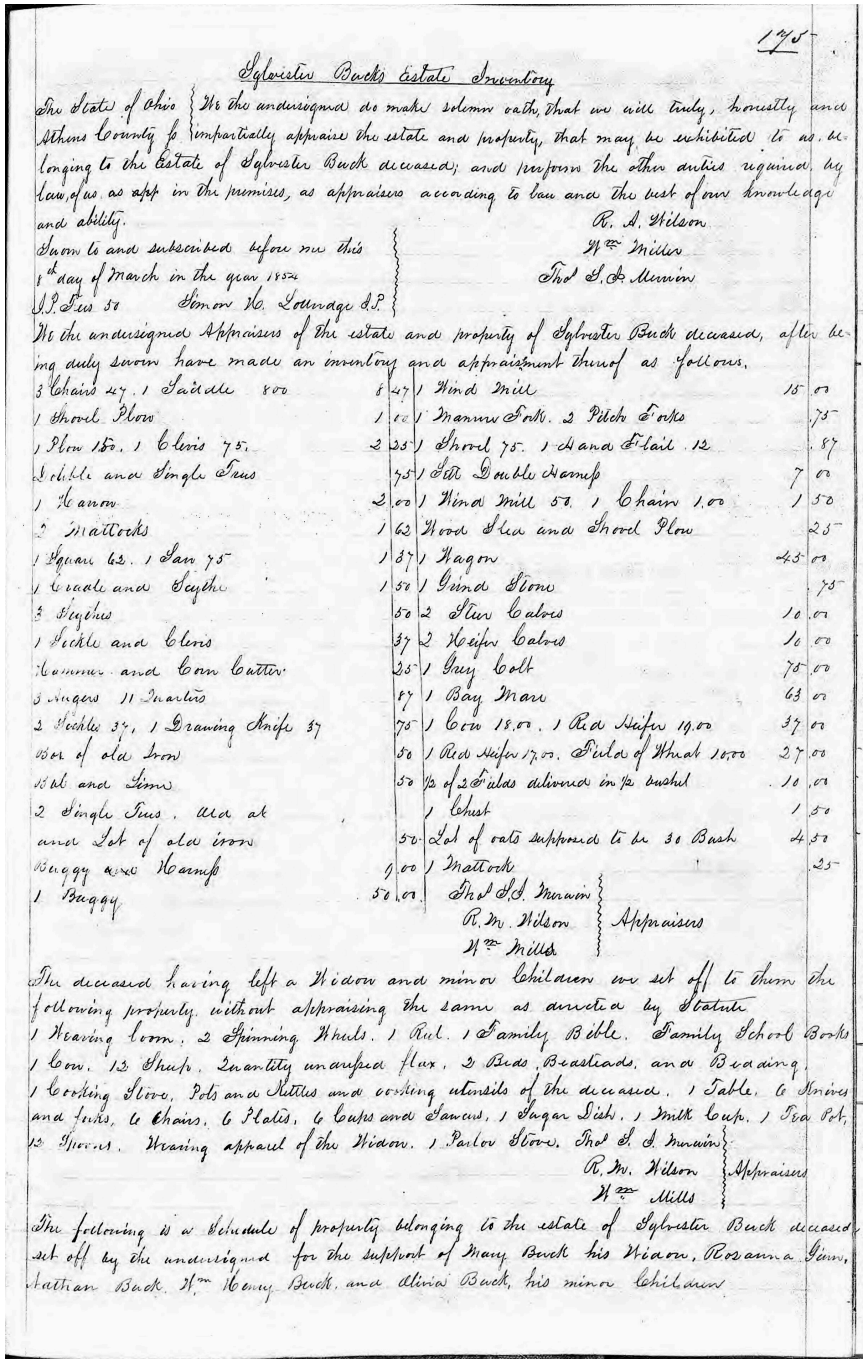
William B. Buck
1847–1859

Olivia "Olive" Buck
1848–

Sylvester's probate record is on pages 175-177 of Volume 6 of the "Athens County Record of Wills." On the first page is the inventory of goods to be sold at auction. Much of the farming equipment is similar to that in Benjamin's inventory, although it seems Sylvester owned a buggy in addition to his wagon. A buggy was a two-seated horse-drawn passenger vehicle.

Following the inventory is this statement by the appraisers:

> "The deceased having left a Widow and minor Children we set off to them the following property without appraising the same as directed by Statute
>
> 1 Weaving loom. 2 Spinning Wheels. I Reel. 1 Family Bible. Family School Books. 1 Cow. 12 Sheep. Quantity (unreadable) flax. 2 Beds, Bedsteads, and Bedding. 1 Cooking Stove. Pots and Kettles and cooking utensils of the deceased. 1 Table. 6 Knives and forks. 6 Chairs. 6 Plates. 6 Cups and Saucers. 1 Sugar Dish. 1 Milk Cup. 1 Tea Pot. 12 Spoons. Wearing apparel of the Widow. 1 Parlor Stove."



175

Sylvester Buck's Estate Inventory

The State of Ohio, Athens County ss. We the undersigned do make solemn oath, that we will truly, honestly and impartially appraise the estate and property, that may be exhibited to us, belonging to the Estate of Sylvester Buck deceased; and perform the other duties required by law, of us as app in the premises, as appraisers according to law and the best of our knowledge and ability.

R. A. Wilson
Wm Miller
Thos S. J. Merwin

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of March in the year 1854
J.P. Fees 50 Simon H. Lodridge J.P.

We the undersigned Appraisers of the estate and property of Sylvester Buck deceased, after being duly sworn have made an inventory and appraisment thereof as follows.

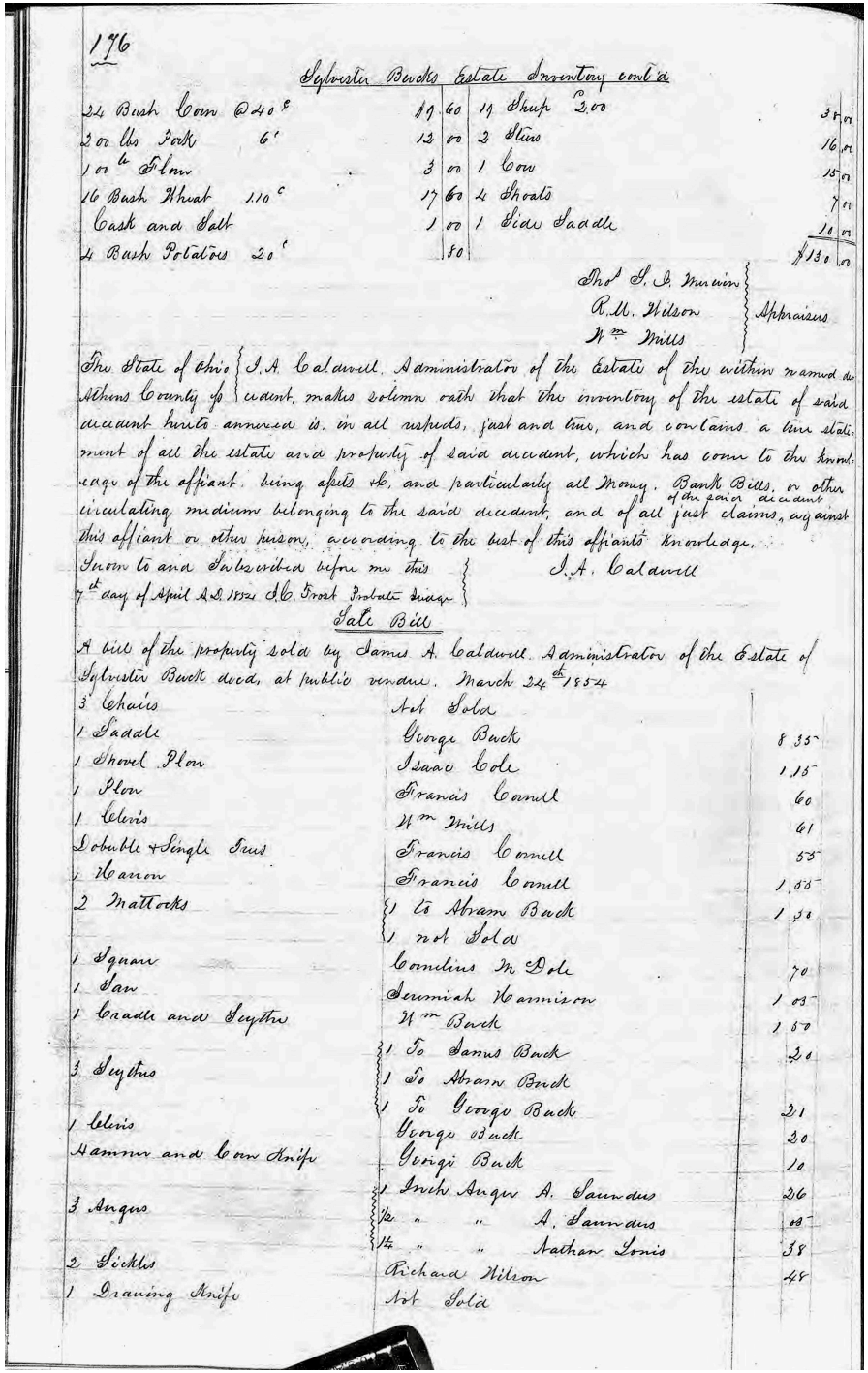
3 Chairs 47. 1 Saddle 800	8	47	1 Wind Mill	15	00
1 Shovel Plow	1	00	1 Manure Fork. 2 Pitch Forks		75
1 Plow 150. 1 Clevis 75.	2	25	1 Shovel 75. 1 Hand Flail 12		87
Double and Single Trees		75	1 Set Double Harness	7	00
1 Harrow	2	00	1 Wind Mill 50. 1 Chain 1.00	1	50
2 Mattocks	1	62	Wood Sled and Shovel Plow		25
1 Square 62. 1 Saw 75	1	37	1 Wagon	45	00
1 Cradle and Scythe	1	50	1 Grind Stone		75
3 Scythes		50	2 Steer Calves	10	00
1 Sickle and Clevis		37	2 Heifer Calves	10	00
Hammer and Corn Cutter		25	1 Grey Colt	75	00
3 Augers 11 Quarters		87	1 Bay Mare	63	00
2 Sickles 37, 1 Drawing Knife 37		75	1 Cow 18.00. 1 Red Heifer 19.00	37	00
Box of old Iron		50	1 Red Heifer 17.00. Field of Wheat 10.00	27	00
Bbl and Lime		50	1/2 of 2 Fields delivered in 1/2 bushel	10	00
2 Single Trees. Old ab			1 Chest	1	50
and Lot of old iron		50	Lot of oats supposed to be 30 Bush	4	50
Buggy and Harness	9	00	1 Mattock		25
1 Buggy	50	00			

Thos S. J. Merwin, R. M. Wilson, Wm Mills — Appraisers

The deceased having left a Widow and minor Children we set off to them the following property without appraising the same as directed by Statute
1 Weaving loom. 2 Spinning Wheels. 1 Reel. 1 Family Bible. Family School Books 1 Cow. 12 Sheep. Quantity undressed flax. 2 Beds, Bedsteads, and Bedding. 1 Cooking Stove, Pots and Kettles and cooking utensils of the deceased. 1 Table. 6 Knives and forks. 6 Chairs. 6 Plates. 6 Cups and Saucers. 1 Sugar Dish. 1 Milk Cup. 1 Tea Pot. 12 Spoons. Wearing apparel of the Widow. 1 Parlor Stove. Thos S. J. Merwin, R. M. Wilson, Wm Mills — Appraisers

The following is a Schedule of property belonging to the estate of Sylvester Buck deceased, set off by the undersigned for the support of Mary Buck his Widow, Rosanna Ginn, Nathan Buck, Wm Henry Buck, and Olivia Buck, his minor Children

"Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," Ancestry (ancestry website: accessed 24 March, 2025), vol. 6, pp. 175-177, Sylvester Buck.



176

Sylvester Bucks Estate Inventory cont'd

24 Bush Corn @40¢	$9	60	19 Sheep @2.00	38	00
200 lbs Pork 6¢	12	00	2 Steers	16	00
100 lb Flour	3	00	1 Cow	15	00
16 Bush Wheat 1.10¢	17	60	4 Shoats	7	00
Cask and Salt	1	00	1 Side Saddle	10	00
4 Bush Potatoes 20¢		80		$130	00

Thos S. I. Merwin
R. M. Wilson } Appraisers
Wm Mills

The State of Ohio } I. A. Caldwell, Administrator of the Estate of the within named de-
Athens County ss } cedent, makes solemn oath that the inventory of the estate of said decedent hereto annexed is, in all respects, just and true, and contains a true statement of all the estate and property of said decedent, which has come to the knowledge of the affiant, being assets &c, and particularly all Money, Bank Bills, or other circulating medium belonging to the said decedent, and of all just claims of the said decedent, against this affiant or other person, according to the best of this affiant's knowledge.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 7th day of April A.D. 1854 J. C. Frost Probate Judge } I. A. Caldwell

Sale Bill

A bill of the property sold by James A. Caldwell, Administrator of the Estate of Sylvester Buck decd, at public vendue, March 24th 1854

3 Chairs	Not Sold	
1 Saddle	George Buck	8 35
1 Shovel Plow	Isaac Cole	1 15
1 Plow	Francis Cornell	60
1 Clevis	Wm Mills	61
Double & Single Trees	Francis Cornell	55
1 Harrow	Francis Cornell	1 55
2 Mattocks	1 to Abram Buck 1 not Sold	1 50
1 Square	Cornelius McDole	70
1 Saw	Jeremiah Harrison	1 05
1 Cradle and Scythe	Wm Buck	1 50
3 Scythes	1 To James Buck 1 To Abram Buck 1 To George Buck	20 21
1 Clevis	George Buck	20
Hammer and Corn Knife	George Buck	10
3 Augers	1 Inch Auger A. Saunders 1/2 " " A. Saunders 1/4 " " Nathan Lonis	26 05 38
2 Sickles	Richard Wilson	48
1 Drawing Knife	Not Sold	

"Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," Ancestry (ancestry website: accessed 24 March 2025), vol. 6, pp. 175-177, Sylvester Buck.

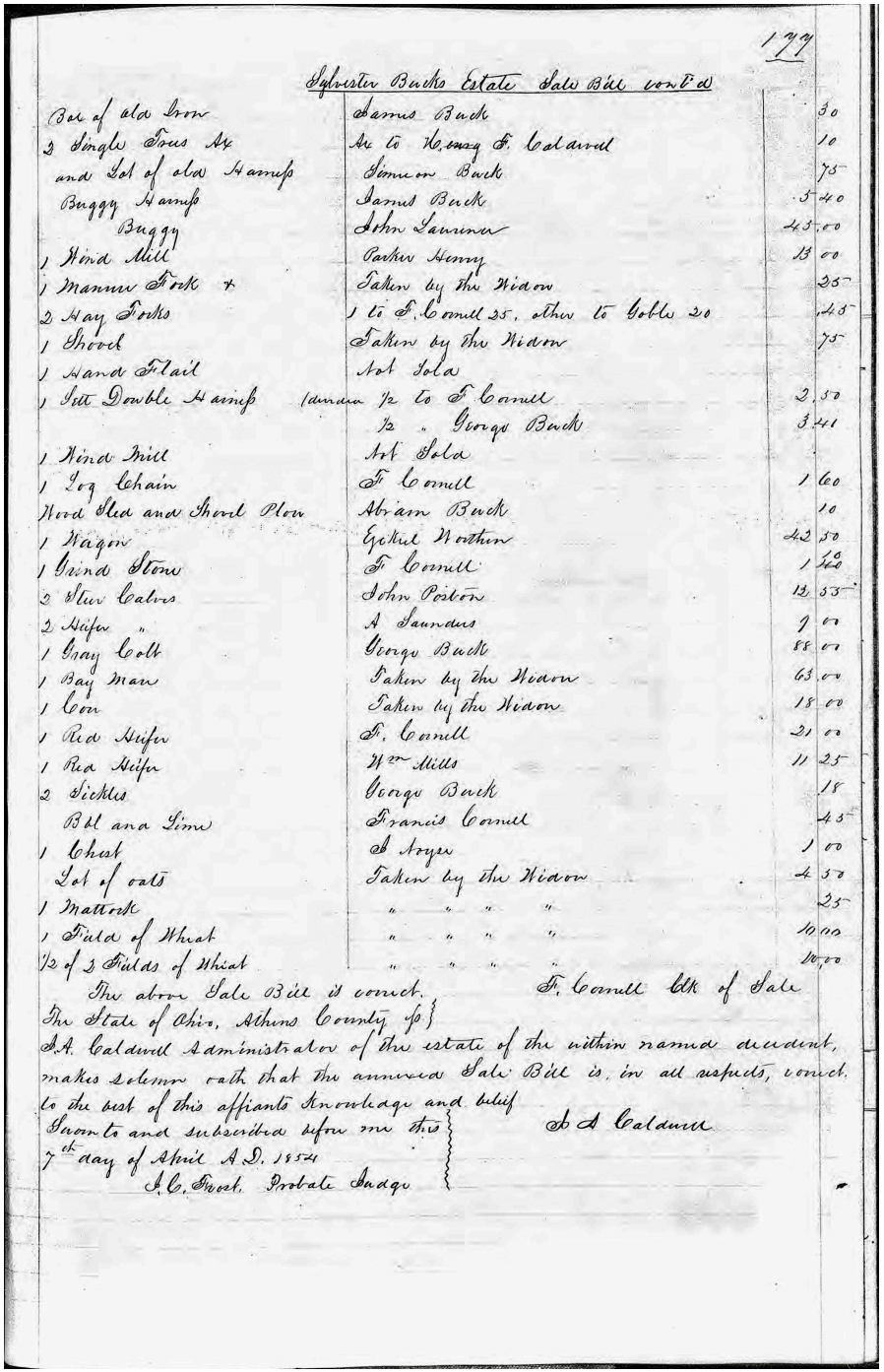
Although fabrics were sold by merchants such as Stone & Cather and Davis & Hicks in Athens County in 1853, it seems Mary Buck was still spinning wool or flax and weaving fabric. We didn't see evidence in Benjamin's estate sale that Talitha did this. I wonder if Mary wove fabrics to barter for other household items; if so, the loom and spinning wheels would have been particularly important possessions for her to keep. In both households, of course, quilts were made from sewing scraps and worn out clothing during this time in history when nothing went to waste. It's likely that much of the clothing was hand sewn by the women of the house.

In addition to the items designated for Mary and her children listed at the bottom of the previous page, on the top of this page is a list of Sylvester's property set off by the appraisers "for the support of Mary Buck his Widow, Rosanna Ginn, Nathan Buck, Wm. Henry Buck, and Olive Buck, his minor Children."

24 Bush[els] Corn @40¢
200 lbs Pork
100 lbs Flour
16 Bush[els] Wheat
Cask and Salt
4 Bush Potatoes 20¢
19 Sheep @2.00
2 Steers
1 Cow
4 Shoats
1 Side Saddle

The total value of the portion of the inventory set aside for Mary and her children listed on this page was $130.00, as appraised by Merwin, Wilson, and Mills.

Among the purchasers listed on pages 176 and 177 are the names of the deceased's nephews George Nelson Buck (son of William[6]) and Abram Buck, James Buck, Simeon Buck, and William Buck (sons of Matthew[6]). Another nephew, Mary[6] Buck Saunders' son Amasa, bought two augers and two heifer calves.



1854

Sylvester Bucks Estate Sale Bill cont'd

Box of old Iron	James Buck	30
2 Single Trees &	Ac to Henry F. Caldwell	10
and Lot of old Harness	Simeon Buck	75
Buggy Harness	James Buck	5 40
Buggy	John Saunders	45 00
1 Wind Mill	Parker Henry	13 00
1 Manure Fork &	Taken by the Widow	25
2 Hay Forks	1 to F. Cornell 25. other to Goble 20	45
1 Shovel	Taken by the Widow	75
1 Hand Flail	Not Sold	
1 Set Double Harness	James ½ to F Cornell	2 50
	½ " George Buck	3 41
1 Wind Mill	Not Sold	
1 Log Chain	F Cornell	1 60
Wood Sled and Shovel Plow	Abram Buck	10
1 Wagon	Ezekiel Northin	42 50
1 Grind Stone	F Cornell	1 50
2 Stear Calves	John Poston	13 50
2 Heifers "	A Saunders	9 00
1 Gray Colt	George Buck	88 00
1 Bay Mare	Taken by the Widow	63 00
1 Cow	Taken by the Widow	18 00
1 Red Heifer	F. Cornell	21 00
1 Red Heifer	Wm Mills	11 25
2 Sickles	George Buck	18
Bbl and Line	Francis Cornell	45
1 Chest	A Aryes	1 00
Lot of oats	Taken by the Widow	4 50
1 Mattock	" " " "	25
1 Field of Wheat	" " " "	10 00
½ of 2 Fields of Wheat	" " " "	10 00

The above Sale Bill is correct. F. Cornell Clk of Sale

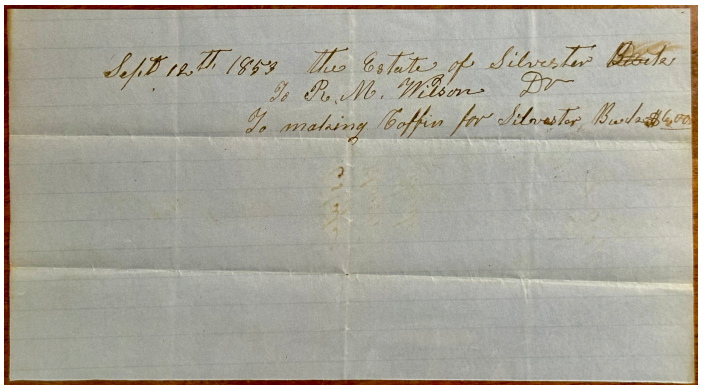
The State of Ohio, Athens County ss}
A.A. Caldwell Administrator of the estate of the within named decedent, makes solemn oath that the annexed Sale Bill is, in all respects, correct, to the best of this affiants knowledge and belief
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of April A.D. 1854
A.C. Frost. Probate Judge

A A Caldwell

"Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," Ancestry (ancestry website: accessed 24 March 2025), vol. 6, pp. 175-177, Sylvester Buck.

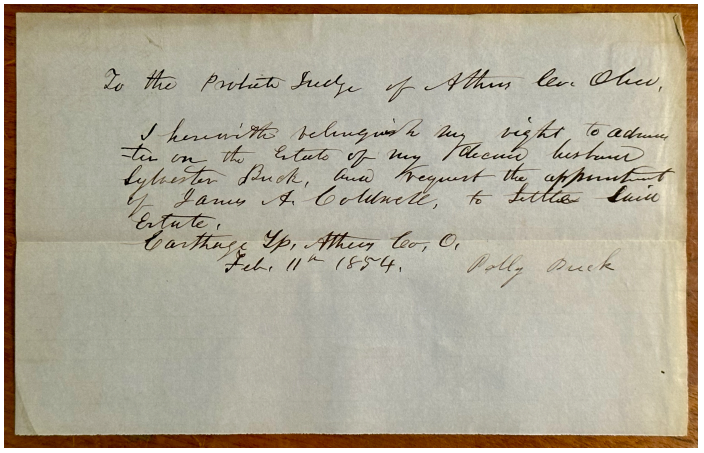
In addition to the probate record available on line, the probate packet for Sylvester's heirs in the Genealogy Center and Library at the Southeast Ohio History Center in Athens, provides interesting information about our Bucks.

Below is R. M. Wilson's bill to the estate for Sylvester's coffin ($6.00), dated the day after he died.



Sept 12th 1853 The Estate of Silvester Bucks
To R. M. Wilson Dr
To making Coffin for Silvester Buck $6.00

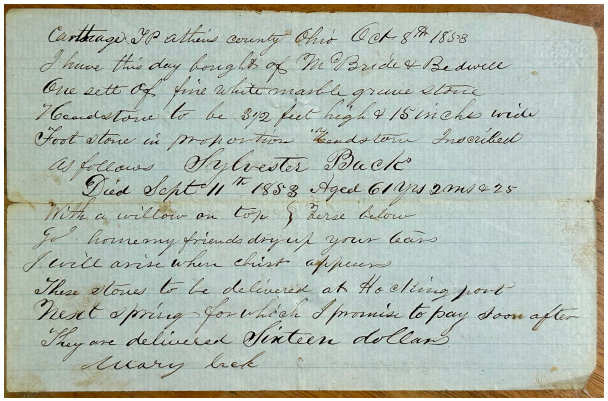
As the note below shows, Mary (Polly) relinquished her right to administer her husband's estate on February 11, 1854. I don't know whether this was commonly done by widows at the time. It's unlikely this note was actually written by Mary because on another receipt she signed with her mark rather than writing her name. If she was illiterate, it would certainly have been difficult for her to administer the estate.



To the Probate Judge of Athens Co. Ohio,

I hereby relinquish my right to administer on the Estate of my deceased husband Sylvester Buck, and request the appointment of James A. Caldwell, to settle said Estate,
Carthage Tp. Athens Co. O.
Feb. 11th 1854. Polly Buck

Less than a month after the death of her second husband, Mary Barton Ginn Buck ordered marble head- and foot stones to mark her deceased husband's grave. The stones were to be delivered at Hockingport on the Ohio River, about 12 miles from the cemetery.



Carthage TP athens county Ohio Oct 8th 1858
I have this day bought of McBride & Bedwell
One sett of fine white marble grave stone
Headstone to be 3½ feet high & 15 inches wide
Foot stone in proportion Headstone Inscribed
As follows Sylvester Buck
Died Sept 11th 1853 Aged 61 yrs 2 ms & 25
With a willow on top & Verse below
Go home my friends dry up your tears
I will arise when christ appears
These stones to be delivered at Hocking port
Next spring for which I promise to pay soon after
They are delivered Sixteen dollars
Mary buck

Transcription of Mary's order for Sylvester's gravestone:

Carthage TP Athens County Ohio Oct. 8th 1858
I have this day bought of McBride & Bedwell
One sett of fine white marble grave stone
Headstone to be 3 1/2 feet high + 15 inches wide
Foot stone in proportion Headstone Inscribed"
As follows Sylvester Buck
Died Sept 11th 1853 Aged 61 yrs 2 ms + 25
With a willow on top & Verse below
Go home my friends dry up your tears
I will arise when christ appears
These stones to be delivered at Hocking port
Next spring for which I promise to pay soon after
They are delivered Sixteen dollars
Mary buck

2004

Photograph courtesy Ralph Edson Hawk.

We now know that "fine white marble" is a less than ideal material for grave markers. The pictures on this page show the rapid deterioration of Sylvester's headstone at Carthage Cemetery over a period of 19 years, beginning 146 years after Mary ordered it.

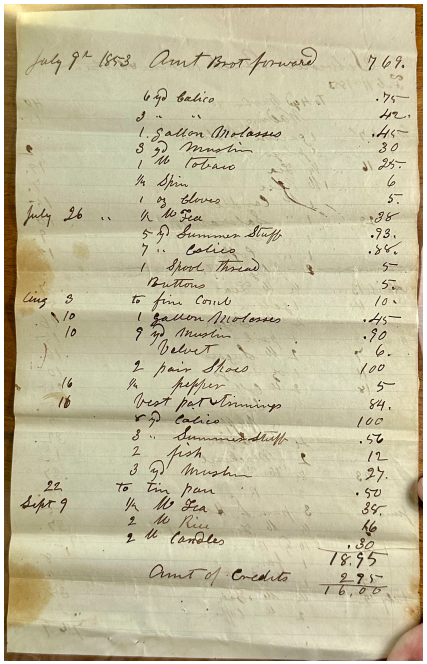
2017

2023 The section of the stone visible in the second picture had been on the ground behind the stone.

Sylvester and Mary had been running up a bill with Stone and Cather, as shown on the store's 2-page record of amounts due and the sworn statement by John Cather of Sylvester's credit to be counted against his debt.

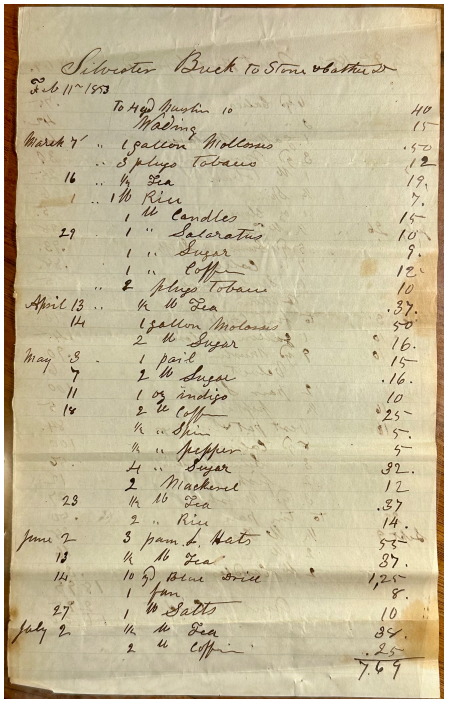
The list of purchases gives us an idea of what the Bucks were buying that they weren't making for themselves in 1853: tea, coffee, rice, sugar and molasses, candles, tobacco, fabrics, saleratus. Drill is a type of durable cotton twill fabric. Wadding could be filler for quilts or material used for gun cartridges; perhaps it was also used for bandaging or something else. My guess is that "Summer Stuff" could be light weight fabric for making summer clothing. The amount of fabric purchased by Mary makes me wonder if she bartered some of what she sewed.

The list of credits shows that Sylvester and Mary may have been churning butter from their cow's milk to use for bartering. Or, more likely, their children churned the butter. Another credit is for a pair of shoes that were purchased (probably on August 10) and returned on the 16th. For some reason, Sylvester doesn't seem to have received credit for the load of wood at the top of the list.



Transcription of the second page (left):

July 9th 1853	Amt Brot forward	769
	6 yd Calico	.75
	3 " "	42
	1 gallon Molasses	.45
	3 yd Muslin	30
	1 lb tobacco	25
	1/2 [Spice?]	6
	1 oz Cloves	5
July 26. "	1/2 lb Tea	.38
	5 yd Summer Stuff	.93
	7 yd Calico	.88
	1 Spool thread	5
	Buttons	5
Aug 3.	To fine Comb	10
10	1 gallon Molasses	.45
10.	9 yd Muslin	.90
	Velvet	6
	2 pair Shoes	100
16.	1/4 pepper	5
16.	Vest pat + trimmings	84
	8 yd Calico	100
	3 " Summer Stuff	.56
	2 fish	12
	3 yd Muslin	27
22	To tin pan	50
Sept 9	1/2 lb Tea	38
	2 lb Rice	26
	2 lb Candles	30
		18.95
	Amt of Credits	2 95
		16.00



Transcription of the statement at right:

Credit

Apr 11 1853		
	By 1 load wood	
May 18 "	By 3 1/2 lb Butter 15	52
Aug 10 "	By 9 1/2 lb Butter 12	118
16	By 7 1/2 lb Butter -	90
	By 1 pair Shoes Returned	35
		2.95

I John Cather of the firm of Stone and Cather do Solemnly Swear that the above act is just + true as he verily Believes and there is no more offsets against Said claim as Known to him

John Cather

State of Ohio Athens County SS

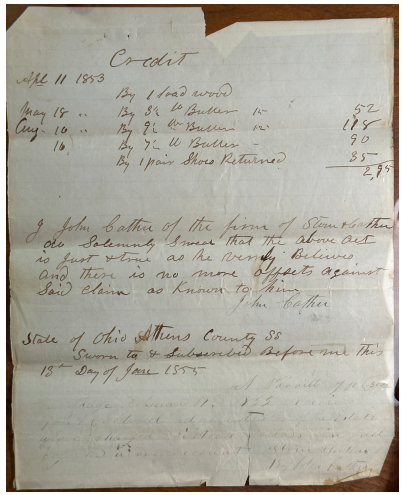
Sworn to + Subscribed Before me this 13th Day of June 1855

[Below are then six lines of writing which are too faint to read, except for the last which is "by John Cather." Likely this portion of the note is the statement by the court representative that he has witnessed Mr. Cather's testimony.]

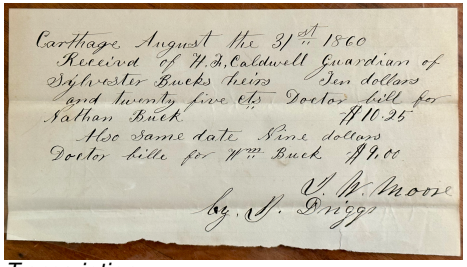
Transcription of the first page (left):

Silvester Buck to Stone and Cather D~

Feb 11 1853		
	To 4 yd Muslin 10	40
	Wading	15
March 7 "	1 gallon Mollasses	.50
"	3 pkgs Tobacco	12
16 "	1/4 Tea	19
"	1 lb Rice	7
	1 lb Candles	15
29	1 " Salaratus	10
	1 " Sugar	9
	1 " Coffee	12
	2 pkgs Tobacco	10
April 13 "	1/2 lb Tea	.37
14	1 gallon Molasses	50
	2 lb Sugar	16
May 3	1 pail	15
7	2 lb Sugar	.16
11	1 oz indigo	10
18	2 lb Coffee	25
	1/2 " [Spice?]	5
	1/2 " pepper	5
	4 " Sugar	32
	2 Mackerel	12
23	1/2 lb Tea	37
	2 " Rice	14
June 2	3 [?] [S.?] Hats	55
13	1/2 lb Tea	37
14	10 yd Blue Drill	1,25
	1 [fan?]	8
27.	1 lb Salts	10
July 2	1/2 lb Tea	38
	2. " Coffee	.25
		7.69

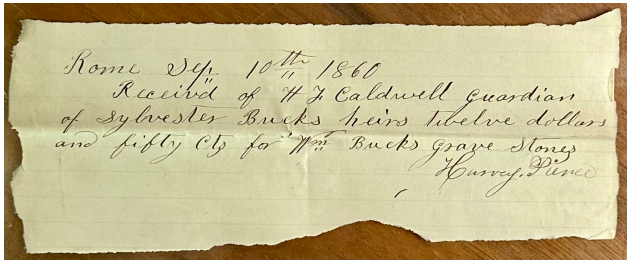


Sylvester and Mary's son William died on January 20, 1859. He was only 11 or 12 years old. Three receipts acknowledging payment by William's guardian, H. J. Caldwell, are shown on this page with transcriptions below them: the doctor's bill, the bill for the grave marker and the bill for hauling the gravestone.



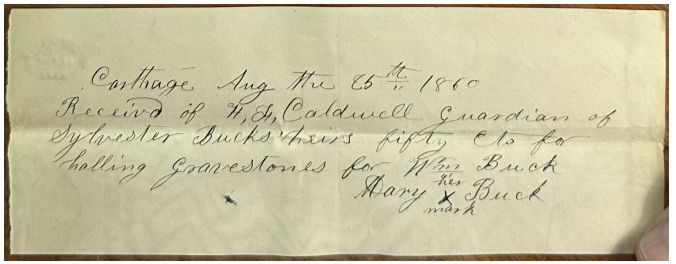
Transcription:

Carthage August 31st 1860
Received of H.J. Caldwell Guardian of
Sylvester Bucks heirs Ten dollars
and twenty-five cts Doctor bill for
Nathan Buck $10.25
Also same date Nine dollars
Doctor bille for Wm Buck $9.00
T. W. Moore
By T. Briggs



Transcription:

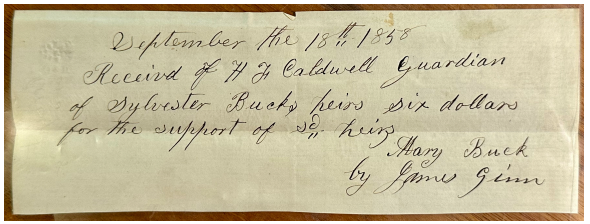
Rome Sep 10th 1860
Receivd of HJ Caldwell guardian
of Sylvester Bucks heirs twelve dollars
and fifty cts for Wm Bucks grave stones
Harry Pierce

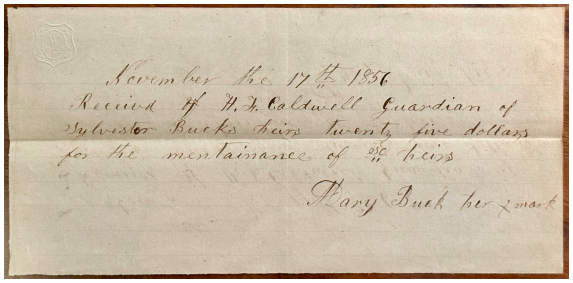


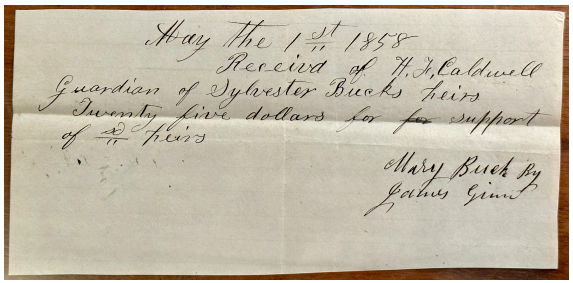
Transcription:

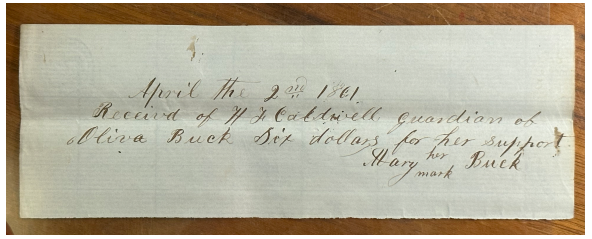
Carthage Aug the 25th 1860
Receivd of H.J. Caldwell Guardian of
Sylvester Bucks heirs fifty cts for
halling gravestones for Wm Buck
her
Mary x Buck
mark

The probate packet included numerous statements from Mary acknowledging her receipt of payments for the care of Sylvester's heirs, her children. Four are shown here: two signed by Mary with her mark and two signed for her by her son, James Ginn.









Sylvester's son Nathan Sylvester Buck and daughter Olive Buck grew into adulthood in Athens County. Nathan served in the Civil War and as a result of his service was granted land in Athens County. He married Emily Wyatt. She gave birth to a daughter, then died. Nathan then married Julia Green and had five more children. He died in West Virginia and has descendants living today.

Olive married Morris Newhouse in Sandusky, Ohio and together they had four children who lived into the middle of the 20th century. I wasn't able to find out when and where Olive died or whether any of her children had children of their own.

Sylvester probably named his daughter Olive after his twin sister, Olive[6] Buck Cummins. We do not have a lot of information about Olive Cummins. It appears that she did not leave descendants, and the public records are sparse. But I was able to find enough material to construct a plausible story of a diligent, caring person who made a positive contribution to her community.

Olive may have lived with Sylvester in Howard, New York and then come to Athens County with him, probably around 1836. She is not listed under her own name or with Sylvester in the 1840 census; it is possible she had married Mr. Cummins by then. I have not found a record of Olive's marriage or her husband's death or first name. If Olive married Mr. Cummins in Athens County she would have been past childbearing age at the time of her marriage.

I could not find Olive in the 1850 census, but there is an Athens County deed showing that she purchased property in Coolville on June 21, 1859. In the 1860 census (see below) she was listed in Coolville as head of household, living with a child named Ann Floid, age 10. Ann may have been an orphan in Olive's care; her surname does not appear on my family tree so I can only guess at their relationship and why Ann was living with Olive. The record suggests that Olive was self-supporting through work as a nurse. At the time, the nursing profession was new and nurses did not receive medical training.

Civil War nurse, courtesy Library of Congress

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in the Village of Coolville **in the County of** Athens **State of** Ohio **enumerated by me, on the** 21st **day of** July **1860.** Wm Golden **Ass't Marshal.**
Post Office Coolville

Dwelling-houses—numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Description. Age.	Sex	Color, white, black, or mulatto	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Estate Owned. Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 y'rs of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
10	1064	Olive Cummings	66	f	✓	Nurse	250	400	Vermont					39
		Ann Floid	10	f	✓				Ohio		1			40

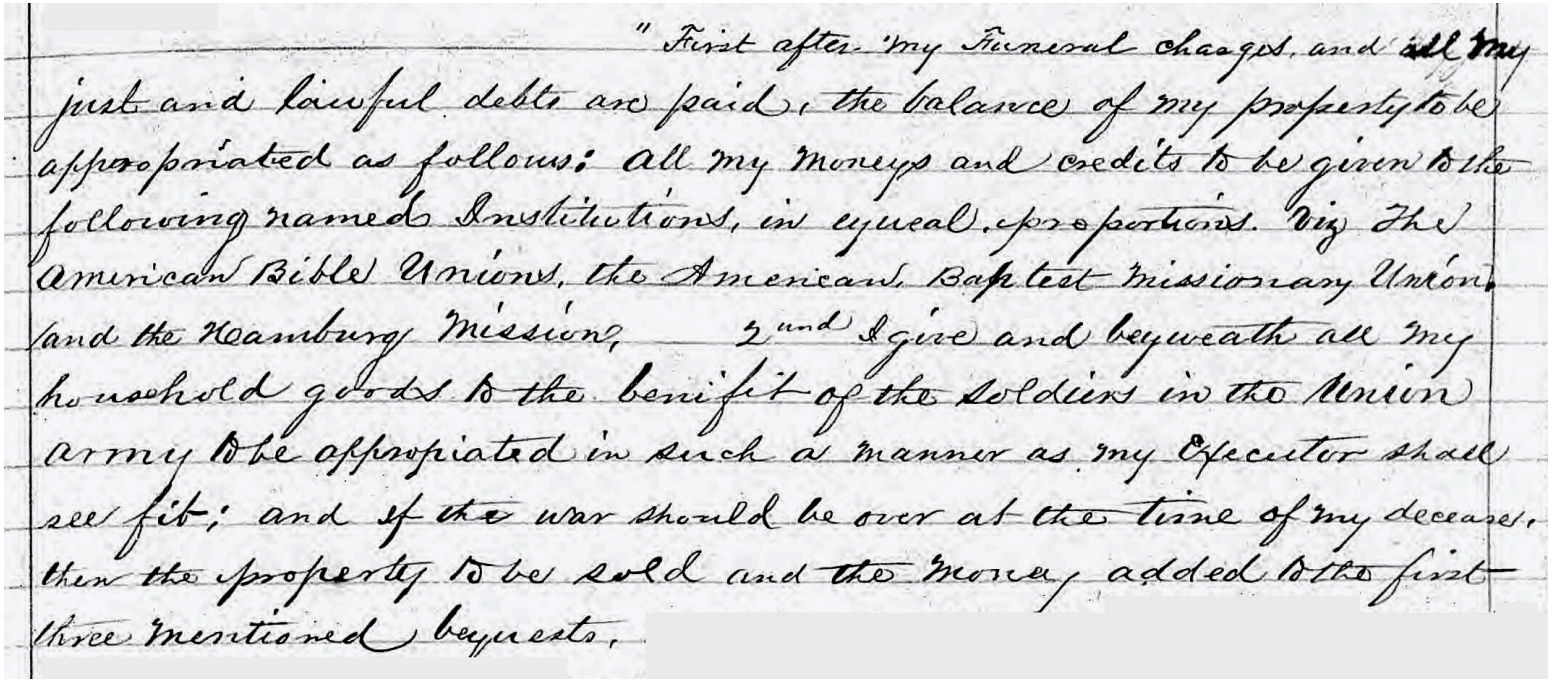
The National Archives in Washington D.C.; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; Series Number: M653; Residence Date: 1860; Home in 1860: Coolville, Athens, Ohio; Roll: M653_934; Page: 156; Family History Library Film: 803934: ancestry website: accessed 24 March 2025

Olive sold her Coolville property on January 25, 1864. The following December she wrote a will in which she left a portion of her personal estate to the wounded soldiers of the Union Army. Since there is no record of her buying property to replace what was sold in 1864, it seems possible that she may have gone to work in one of the hospitals set up to serve the Union soldiers.

She wrote her will on December 2, 1864, more than three and a half years into the war. Whether or not she worked as a nurse during the war, the sacrifices made by the soldiers were clearly on her mind when she wrote her will. She died May 12, 1866. The bequests made in her will, a portion of which is shown below, show her commitment to her religion and to the soldiers who suffer the hardships of battle. A transcription of this portion of her will is shown above the image.

Transcription of a portion of the will of Olive Buck Cummins:

First, after my Funeral charges and all my just and lawful debts are paid, the balance of my property to be appropriated as follows: all my moneys and credits to be given to the following named Institutions, in equal proportions. viz The American Bible Unions, the American Baptist Missionary Union, and the Hamburg Mission. 2nd I give and bequeath all my household goods to the benefit of the soldiers in the Union Army to be appropriated in such a manner as my Executor shall see fit; and if the war should be over at the time of my decease, then the property to be sold and the money added to the first three mentioned bequests.



"First after my Funeral charges, and all my just and lawful debts are paid, the balance of my property to be appropriated as follows: all my moneys and credits to be given to the following named Institutions, in equal proportions. viz The American Bible Unions, the American Baptist Missionary Union, and the Hamburg Mission, 2nd I give and bequeath all my household goods to the benifit of the Soldiers in the Union army to be appropriated in such a manner as my Executor shall see fit; and if the war should be over at the time of my decease, then the property to be sold and the money added to the first three mentioned bequests,

"Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," Ancestry (ancestry website: accessed 24 March 2025), vol. 8, p. 47, Olive Cummins.

My thoughts about Olive are speculative, but we know for certain that at least five of Matthew and Magdalene's grandsons fought for the Union during the Civil War - Abram's three oldest sons, Alden, Alonzo and Wesley; Elizabeth's son, William Nelson Wilmarth; and Benjamin's son, Warren, who was only 16 when he enlisted.

Sylvester[6] Buck's son Nathan Sylvester Buck also fought for the Union. I have not checked the records to see whether descendants of Mary[6] Buck Saunders and William[6] Buck served during the war, but both of them had sons and/or grandsons who were of age to be soldiers at the time, so it's very likely some of them did.

Of the Buck descendants named above, both Alden Buck and William Wilmarth lost their lives during the war.

Alden Buck's grave marker, left. This stone was made in 2012 to replace the original which had become illegible with age. Photograph on findagrave.com courtesy Donald Coho.

Alden died October 22, 1863 in a hospital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from injuries suffered July 2, 1863, during the Battle of Gettysburg. He was buried in the soldiers' plot at Harrisburg Cemetery.

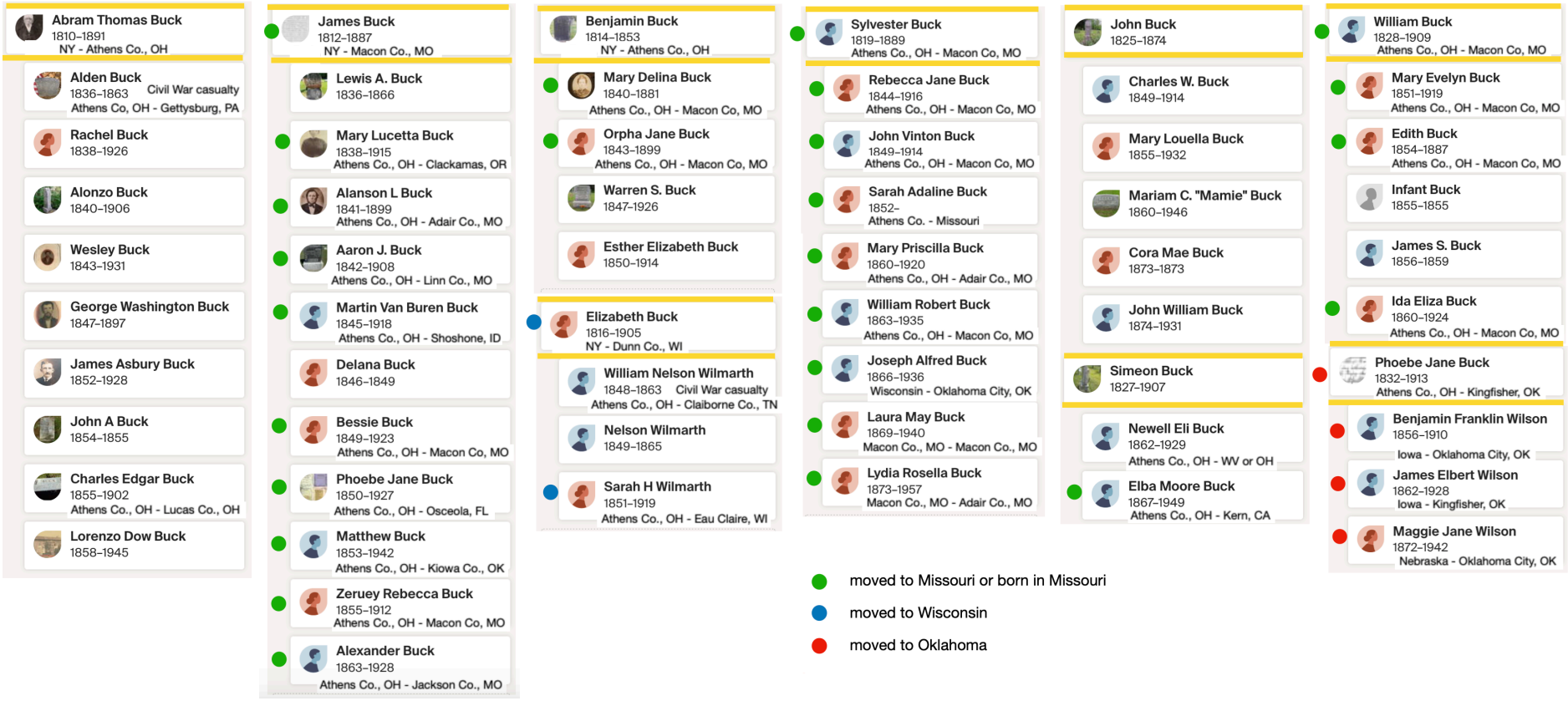
Alden left a wife and four children. His widow, Celia Weatherby Buck, died eight years later. Her death left Eliza, John Henry, Edward Wesley, and Alden Alonzo Buck orphans at the ages of 14, 12, 10, and eight. Waldo writes that William Buck, Matthew's brother, "reared John, Edward and Alden 'Alt,' sons of Alden." Waldo makes no mention of Eliza, but she died three years after her mother's death and may have been lost to the family record sixty years later when Waldo was collecting family data.

For nearly four decades, Matthew and Magdalene Buck and their children and grandchildren built homes, raised families, and farmed their land in Athens County. Eventually many of their children and grandchildren joined the great westward migration. Sometime between 1854 and 1856, newly-wed Phoebe[7] Buck Wilson and her husband left Ohio and went to Iowa and then Nebraska. They eventually settled in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. Others left Athens County after the Civil War, which was a time of major migration west. In 1867, Elizabeth[7] Buck Wilmarth, her husband and her only surviving child removed to Eau Galle, Wisconsin. In 1868, James[7] Buck, his wife and his surviving children (except Alanson and his family, who followed later) left Athens County, accompanied by the wife and children of James' deceased son Lewis. They settled in Macon County, Missouri. Other family members (indicated below by a green dot) also moved to Missouri, possibly at the same time.

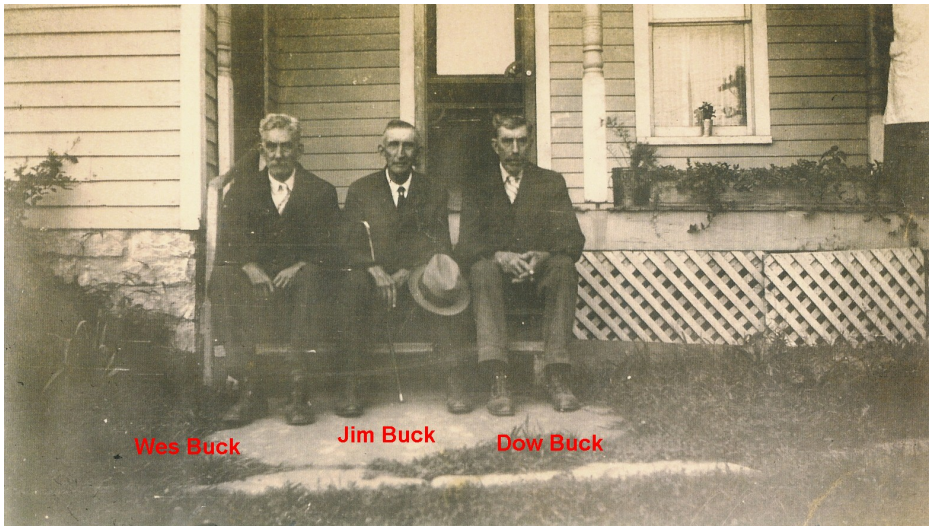
Two decades after the Buck exodus began, more of our Bucks had left Ohio than remained. But the close family ties continued for several generations. We have evidence of this from correspondence and records of visits between Athens County Bucks and their western cousins.

Like Matthew, the siblings who followed him to Ohio remained in Ohio, except for William[6] who removed to Wisconsin with his second wife and some of his children.

The only method I could think of to help me get an idea of the movement of the Bucks out of Athens County was to make the graphic below. Unfortunately, it only includes Matthew's descendants. Adding William[6] and his children and the children of Mary[6] and Sylvester[6] was more than I could manage.



As late as 1928, three sons of Abram Thomas Buck were still alive and living in Athens County (See undated photograph below). At the time of this writing, there are still Buck descendants living in Athens County.



From the collection of Ralph Edson Hawk.

During the 1940s and 50s, Buck's Lake was a popular resource for the community. Hubert and Maggie Buck welcomed neighbors and visitors from all over the region to swim and fish in their lakes on the land that was originally settled by Matthew and Magdalene (see article at right). This land is currently owned by descendants of Matthew's son John. In the welcoming spirit of Hubert and Maggie, they invited Buck descendants to celebrate on Buck's Lake Farm during Buck reunions in 2019 (see photograph below) and 2023.

— Messenger Photo by Julie Kramer

NEVER GETS LONELY — Maggie Buck runs a mini-grocery store out of the back of her home on Guysville Route 1. Although she hardly ever ventures away from home these days, with all the people dropping by, she never has a chance to get lonely.

Last of Her Kind in Area

SHADE — A little girl walked in the back door and into the mini-grocery store. As the genial, gray-haired woman got up from the dining room table to go to the store in the back of her home, the girl carefully counted out her change and laid it on the counter. Maggie Buck handed her the bottle of pop and chuckled.

"Somebody's dropping in all the time to visit, buy a pop or eat a bar of candy," Mrs. Buck said. "Even though I hardly ever go away from home, I never get lonesome here."

She said the store was the only one of its kind left within five miles of Guysville. Passing by the front of the 239-acre Guysville farm though, one would never know the store was there.

In what she called a pantry in the back of her house, the 77-year-old shopkeeper sells tobacco, candy, soft drinks and several varieties of canned goods to neighbors. She has been running the store by herself since her husband's death 10 years ago.

Mrs. Buck said a busy time of the day is when the neighborhood children stop in on their way home from school.

"I told the school bus driver he'll have to keep driving the route in the summer or I won't know when it's 4 o'clock," she said.

Originally, the store was opened to feed the hungry fishermen who came to fish at "Buck's lakes." The lakes were not always there though, Mrs. Buck said. In 1932, her husband Hubert dug out the first two small lakes on a hill behind the house.

"My husband was crazy about fishing," she said. "He wanted to build them (the lakes) to fish and pretty soon there were seven."

The Bucks stocked the lakes with fish and charged $1 to fish for the day.

"People used to come from as far away as Parkersburg and Columbus to use our lakes," Maggie said.

"We used to have swimming too," she said. "A car load of students came by once and said it was perfect. From that my husband got the idea to put up a sign on the bulletin at the university. A lot of students came."

The Bucks had to close the lakes to the public 10 years later. When the lakes became too popular, they could not afford to pay the required insurance coverage, Mrs. Buck explained. The store remained open though, serving snacks to the neighbors and occasional fishermen.

She was born and raised in Jeffers, a small town near Guysville. At the age of seventeen, she married Hubert Buck and moved into the house on Route 44, where she lives today. There she reared four sons, one of whom lives in the house next door. Since her husband's death, Mrs. Buck has lived with her grandson, Rocky.

Would Maggie consider closing up shop?

"My sister's after me all the time to close it," she said. "But I like people, you know, young and old. They all come in and sit down for a pop or candy. I love to visit with them."

Newspaper clipping from the Athens Messenger.

In Memoriam: Waldo Walter Buck, 1887-1964, Buck Family Historian

During the 1930s and 40s, Waldo[9] (Wesley[8], Abram[7], Matthew[6]) Buck spent many hours interviewing family and visiting Athens County cemeteries to collect information about his Buck ancestors. He compiled his research in 1951 and distributed it within the family. But a great deal of information was missing because so many Bucks had left the area and been lost to collective local memory. In 1953, Ernest[9] (James[8], Martin Van Buren[7], Matthew[6]) Buck, who had been researching his branch of the family, came to Athens County. He met up with Waldo and supplied many of the missing pieces. Waldo added the information from Ernest and in 1959 produced the final manuscript of his *Matthew Buck Record*.

Many Buck cousins have contributed pieces to the shared story that has helped us build the community we have today. But Waldo may have been the first, and without his work much of our history would have been lost. Waldo's autobiography (below, right) is included in his *Matthew Buck Record*, so we know what was important to him—in addition to family history. It also tells us something about what life in Athens County was like at the turn of the 20th century and during its first six decades.

Right, front and back views of Waldo and Edna Buck's grave marker in Asbury Church Cemetery, Athens County, Ohio, photographed May 2017.

Above, undated photograph of Waldo Buck, top left, with his brother Jimmie and parents Wesley and Clara, c. 1905-1910. From the collection of Ralph Edson Hawk.

Waldo Walter Buck, son of Wesley Buck. Born July 16,1887. Joined the Asbury M. E. Church Dec. 16, 1897; Rev. L. L. Cherrington was the pastor. Was Sunday School Superintendent at Asbury for several years and serves as Sunday School Superintendent at Guysville Methodist Church now. Graduated from Guysville High School April 29, 1908 (there were no girls in the class and only four boys: Harry Hulbert, Everett Hayes, Guy Pierce and Waldo W. Buck. Guy Pierce died June 19, 1952 in Charleston, S. C. Buried in West Union St. Cemetery, Athens Ohio. Taught one term of school (1909-10) at Millfield, Ohio. Farmer for several years. Appointed rural mail carrier April 2, 1917; retired July 31, 1957, with 40 years, 4 months service. Soldier during World War I, Co. A. 361 Inf. 91 Div. Served in England, France and Belgium July 22, 1918, to April 30, 1919. Moved family and parents from the farm to Guysville, Ohio, October 23, 1923. Waldo and family attended the Century of Progress (World's Fair) at Chicago, Ill., the week of August 22, 1934.
Wife: Edna Florence Burleigh, daughter of Delano F. and Carrie (Wood) Burleigh. Born Feb. 7, 1894. Baptized Sept. 16, 1956, by Rev. Edward Miller. Died Nov. 18, 1958, (2:25 PM Tuesday). Services Friday 2:00 P. M. in Guysville Methodist Church. Interred in Asbury Cemetery, Lot No. 62.
Children: Wayne Ervin; Berneta Lurene; Thelma Eleanor.